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CONFIDENTIAL.

(4556.)

F.O.

424

PART LXII.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

June 1881.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

PART LXII.

No. 1.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 1, 6·50 P.M.)

(No. 50. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, June* 1, 1881, 2·30 P.M.

ADMIRAL SEYMOUR, in a private letter received this morning, states that the Captain of the "Hecla" is ordered to go up to Scutari in steam pinnace and call on the authorities, in order to show that the Boyana is not closed to ships of war; and he suggests my getting Italians to follow suit.

Would your Lordship approve of this?

No. 2.

Consul-General Jones to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 2.)

(No. 26.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, May* 24, 1881.

I BEG leave to inform your Lordship that Aleko Pasha, the Governor-General of this province, will leave Philippopoli to-morrow for Constantinople. His Excellency has been requesting from the Porte leave of absence for some time past, and, having received no reply, has undertaken this journey mainly for the purpose of urging his request in person. Manifestly he is of opinion that the political and social condition of the province is sufficiently favourable to justify him in leaving his Government at the present time.

I may add that his Excellency has all along been much dissatisfied with the sum allowed him as annual salary by the provisions of the Organic Statute—£ T. 3,000, and £ T. 1,000 "frais de représentation"—and with some reason complains that it renders him altogether dependent on the good-will of the Permanent Committee for the payment of his Secretaries, Aides-de-camp, and agents whom he may send into the province for the purpose of reporting to him the complaints and wishes of the inhabitants. During his stay at Constantinople he will most probably urge his plea for an augmentation of salary on the notice of the Porte and the Representatives of the Signatory Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

No. 3.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 2.)

(No. 63.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May* 24, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report that the accounts current here of Dervish Pasha's progress in consolidating the Sultan's authority in North-east Albania continue unanimous

in support of the General's success and the power he has displayed in awing the natives into submission.

He is now busily engaged in enforcing the conscription and collecting the tithes which had remained in abeyance in most of the northern districts of the Kossovo Vilayet ever since the signature of the Treaty of Berlin, and I believe he is, at the same time, attempting to restore general confidence in the Ottoman Administration by relaxing gradually the severity of his action against those who were most prominent in the resistance against him.

I think it, however, right to point out to your Lordship, with reference to the opposition which had been made to the cession of Gusinjé to Montenegro, and which the Porte had invariably declared to be maintained against its wishes by the local Chief, Ali Pasha, that Dervish Pasha has been careful to make public that the said Ali Pasha had always strictly obeyed the Sultan, and had also contributed largely towards the success of his recent operations by his loyal conduct; and for these reasons Ali Pasha has been rewarded with a life pension of 3,000 piastres a-month and the post of Kaïmakam over his native district of Gusinjé.

Considerable irritation is felt in Scutari at the favours thus shown to Ali Pasha, whilst Hodo Pasha and Prenck Bib Doda, the Mirdite Chief, who as strictly and loyally obeyed the commands given them through Izzet Pasha to oppose the cessions in the direction of Tousi, are now prisoners and exiles. I have been made to understand on more than one occasion that these two Chiefs are being made to suffer solely as a reproof to those who had ventured to point them out as capable of moulding North Albania into something better than a neglected and ill-administered vilayet, and as a warning that even the discussion of the reforms mentioned in the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin is dangerous.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 4.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville—(*Received June 2.*)

E
(No. 420.)
Sir,

Constantinople, May 26, 1881.

WITH reference to the announcement which I have been able to make to your Lordship that the Convention for the rectification of the Greek frontier has at last been signed, I feel bound to place on record that during the last few weeks of the negotiations the difficulties the Ambassadors encountered were greatly heightened by the sudden and unexpected turn given to the Tunisian question by France.

I need not explain to your Lordship now the addition of this new difficulty to the troubles with which the Turkish Government is surrounded was calculated not only to divert the attention of the Sultan and his advisers from the question which the Six Powers were urging him to solve, but still more to irritate them with such resistance to the views of Europe as they could venture on with impunity.

At several of the most critical stages of our proceedings the Ministers frankly stated that they were entirely absorbed by some other pressing business under which their discussions about Tunis were meant; but in the opinion of most of my colleagues and myself a more serious result was this, that the Turks acquired the conviction that the concert of Europe, which was urging them to the fulfilment of international obligations, was either powerless, or reluctant to move when arbitrary action was taken by one of the Powers.

I have reported to your Lordship how I have previously explained to His Majesty the Sultan that the concert of Europe which constituted a means of exerting pressure on him in some cases was, and would be, a protection to him in others. The Tunis affair has falsified this view, and has tended to destroy whatever moral effect the concert of Europe, as displayed in the execution of the Berlin Treaty, might have had.

At the beginning of the year the French Government, by its sudden withdrawal without notice from the position as to the award of the Berlin Treaty, placed the whole of the negotiations as to the Greek frontier in the greatest jeopardy. By its choosing the most critical moment in the subsequent course of these negotiations, when a favourable issue first began to appear to be in reach, to raise a new Eastern complication, to rouse the pride and wound the *amour-propre* of the Sultan and the Porte just at the time when it was essential that they should maintain a conciliatory attitude towards Europe, and by the utterance of a menace almost threatening to make a *casus belli* of the exercise by the

Turkish Government of what it considered its right, France a second time risked the success of the efforts in which she was a partner with the remaining Great Powers.

It is beyond my province to make any comment on the policy of France as regards Tunis itself, but I trust your Lordship will consider that in view of the intimate bearings which the French proceedings have had on the course of the negotiations which I was conducting on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, it is not out of place for me to record the effect of that policy on those negotiations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 5.

*Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.**

E MS.
(No. 520.)
My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 2, 1881.

I TRANSMIT herewith copies of despatches, as marked in the margin,† which I have received from Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Bulgaria respecting the complaints of Mussulman land-owners with regard to the proceedings of the Bulgarian authorities in relation to their proprietary rights.

I also inclose a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Mr. Lascelles, directing him, in the event of his ascertaining the complaints to be well founded, ‡ concert with the Agents of other Powers to remonstrate against such proceedings to contrary to the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have to instruct you to communicate the accompanying papers to the Government to which you are accredited.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 6.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

E. MS.
(No. 37.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, June 2, 1881.

I HAVE had under my consideration your two further despatches of the 16th and 18th April respecting the complaints of certain Mussulman land-owners with regard to the proceedings of the Bulgarian authorities in relation to their proprietary rights. The Mussulman proprietors of the district of Kustendil, to whose complaints your despatch No. 30 of the 16th April refers, represent that they are prevented by the Bulgarian authorities from entering into possession of their lands, that the sales they have effected are annulled, that they are forced to refund the purchase-money as well as the rents they have received from their tenants, who have been informed by the Commission of which M. Zancoff is the President that the Mussulman lands have become the property of the State, and that the occupants are absolved from paying rent any longer to their former landlords. Some of the complaints are made on behalf of proprietors who have taken up their residence beyond the limits of the Principality, others by those who still remain there. The case of the former is met by Article XII of the Treaty of Berlin, which assures to such persons the right to "conserver leurs immeubles en les affermant ou en les faisant administrer par des tiers." With regard to the other category, viz., those who have elected to remain in the Principality, I have to observe that the new Bulgarian Land Law, of which you have transmitted a copy in a former despatch, does not specifically refer to Mussulman proprietors; but if in its application it places the resident Mussulmans in a position less favourable than the Christians, it would be contrary to the spirit of the Vth Article of the Treaty, which assures to all, without distinction of religious belief, the enjoyment of civil and political rights. If, therefore, you should ascertain that the representations you have received from Kustendil and Samakow are well founded, Her Majesty's Government desire that you will concert with such of your colleagues as may be authorized to join in such a step, to remind the Bulgarian Government of the conciliatory

* Also to Mr. Wyndham (No. 224); Sir A. Paget (No. 223); Sir J. Walsham (No. 270); Sir H. Elliot (No. 178); and Mr. Plunkett (No. 402).
† See Part LXI, Nos. 1 and 2.
‡ No. 6.

views regarding Mussulmans expressed in M. Stoitchoff's Circular of the 8th February last, inclosed in your despatch No. 12 of the 12th of that month, and to point out that proceedings such as those attributed to the Bulgarian authorities are contrary to the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, and are calculated to resuscitate the ill-feeling between the Mussulman and Christian inhabitants of the Principality, which there was reason to hope was subsiding, and would, if the Bulgarian authorities continued to maintain a just and conciliatory attitude towards the Mahommedan minority, have soon entirely disappeared.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 7.

Baron Haymerle to Count Károlyi.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Count Károlyi, June 3.)

Vienne, le 1er Juin, 1881.

(Télégraphique.)

NOUS télégraphions aujourd'hui au Baron Calice:—

"L'Ambassadeur de Russie vient de nous communiquer le télégramme suivant de M. de Giers:—

"'*St. Pétersbourg, le* 18 *Mai.*

"'Les Ambassadeurs à Constantinople s'étant mis d'accord dans leurs pourparlers préliminaires sur projet Anglais Sale relatif à la délimitation Monténégrine, M. Novikow propose de leur abandonner la solution définitive de cette question sur la base du maximum qui serait reconnue par la Grande Bretagne et acceptée par les Turcs. Cette proposition nous paraît être pratique et acceptable pour tous les Cabinets. Je fais part à M. Novikow de notre adhésion. Priez le Baron Haymerle d'envoyer des directions conçues dans le même esprit au Baron Calice.'"

En réponse à cette communication nous avons informé M. d'Oubril du contenu de notre télégramme à votre Excellence, et nous avons ajouté que par ce télégramme nous considérons votre Excellence autorisée à concourir à un accord entre les Ambassadeurs à Constantinople et la Sublime Porte sur la délimitation en question.

No. 8.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 313.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, June 3, 1881, 7·5 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 50.

It is not desirable that you should suggest to Italian Government to send boat to Scutari.

No. 9.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 230. Confidential. Extender.)

Foreign Office, June 3, 1881.

Sir,

IN reply to your inquiry whether the Italian Government should be requested to adopt a similar course to that which has been pursued by this country in dispatching a steam-pinnace to Scutari, in order to show that the Boyana is not closed to ships of war, I have to inform your Excellency that it is not desirable that you should make any suggestion to the Italian Government to that effect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 10.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 7.)

My Lord,

Prevesa, May 28, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to subjoin copy of my despatch of to-day to Her Majesty's Ambassador relating to the departure of several Albanian Beys for the Dardanelles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Goschen.

Sir,

Prevesa, May 28, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that, in obedience to an order from the capital, the following Albanian notables will proceed by first opportunity to the Dardanelles:—Mustafá Pasha of Avlona, Mustafá Bey of Janina, Omer Bey Vrioni of Berat (cousin of Mechmet Ali Bey, one of the Albanian delegates), and Kiazim Bey, Mutessarif of Prevesa.

I have also the honour to report the arrival here of the Vali of Janina and of the Ferik Osman Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 11.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received June 5, 6 P.M.)

(No. 276.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, June 5, 1881, 11·30 A.M.

MONTENEGRIN frontier.

At meeting yesterday of the six Representatives we decided to charge Russian and Austrian Ambassadors to sound Porte, in our names, on basis of Captain Sale's line, as modified by Russian Memorandum inclosed in Mr. Goschen's No. 412 of 24th ultimo, and recognizing thalweg of the Boyana as proper frontier. Some Representatives desired to make this the basis, and to try, if possible, to get more out of the Turks, but eventually we agreed that this should be the maximum which should be asked for from them. It was also privately settled that less might be [? taken] for an early and final solution.

Russian and Austrian Ambassadors will inform us of Porte's answer. Russian Ambassador pressed me to join him, on the ground that England had taken always so leading a part in the Montenegrin question, but I declined, on ground that I did not wish to put myself forward.

(Sent to Mr. Green.)

No. 12.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received June 5, 7·30 P.M.)

(No. 276. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, June 5, 1881, 1·45 P.M.

WITH reference to my preceding telegram, real reason why I refused was that Austrian Ambassador had only allowed his name to be used as a form, and had declared he would only send his Dragoman to the Porte to say that he endorsed whatever Russian Ambassador said in this matter in our names. I feared, therefore, to compromise position of Lord Dufferin [? if I] had agreed to act.

His Lordship might have found his first visit to the Porte would probably have been for a joint action with the Russian Ambassador, which might produce bad impression on his first arrival.

No. 13.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Plunkett.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 6.)

Salonica, May 30, 1881.

(Telegraphic.)

PURSUIT of numerous brigands in district of Cassandra effected energetically and successfully by Military Governor, Salih Pasha. Since 25th instant twenty-three brigands destroyed. Their heads will be exposed to-day for identification. Her Majesty's ship "Cygnet" leaves this afternoon for Scio and Smyrna.

No. 14.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received June 6.)

Therapia, May 30, 1881.

(No. 437.)

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me the morning after Mr. Goschen's departure to inquire whether I would be prepared to take part in the collective action which he desired to propose to the Ambassadors with a view to bringing about a satisfactory solution of the Montenegrin Frontier question; and he further asked whether Her Majesty's Ambassador had received any instructions with reference to the Memorandum on this subject which he had submitted some days ago to his Excellency, copy of which was forwarded to your Lordship in Mr. Goschen's No. 412 of the 24th instant.

I told M. Novikoff that your Lordship had informed Mr. Goschen of your willingness to leave the settlement of the Montenegrin frontier in the hands of the Ambassadors, but that I could not take upon myself that you would honour me by leaving me the same discretion, when I was only to be Chargé d'Affaires for the few days which would elapse before the arrival of the Earl of Dufferin. I therefore suggested to his Excellency that, as the question had already remained so long unsettled, there could hardly be any objection to waiting a little longer, and that I would prefer to leave the matter in Lord Dufferin's hands.

M. Novikoff, however, urged so strongly the objections felt by his Government to any further delay, that I consented to refer to your Lordship for instructions; and his Excellency then added privately that he felt pretty confident that, to secure a prompt settlement, further concessions would be made to meet still further the views expressed by Captain Sale, as explained in your Lordship's despatch No. 199 of the 18th March.

The day before yesterday I received your Lordship's permission to act with the other Representatives, but it now seems that there is no immediate prospect of any collective action, as the French Ambassador states he must await instructions, for which he appears not yet to have even applied.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 15.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received June 6.)

Admiralty, June 4, 1881.

(Confidential.)

My Lord,

WITH reference to your letter of the 14th ultimo, conveying a request from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that instructions might be given for one of Her Majesty's ships to proceed to the mouth of the Boyana River, and for her Commander to proceed up the river in his steam-launch, and visit the authorities at Scutari, so as to show that the river is not closed to vessels of war, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will state to Earl Granville that orders in this sense were given on the 20th ultimo to the Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean.

2. In his Confidential letter of the 30th ultimo Sir Beauchamp Seymour reports as follows:—

"I have ordered the "Hecla" to proceed from Corfu on the 1st proximo to the mouth of the Boyana River, and from thence Captain Arthur K. Wilson will proceed in the steam-pinnace to Scutari to carry out their Lordships' instructions.

"I have written privately and confidentially to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, telling him the nature of my orders to Captain Wilson, and I have informed Sir Augustus Paget at Rome, also confidentially, of the same."

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 16.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received June 7.)

Paris, June 6, 1881.

(No. 555.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have this day addressed a note to the French Government in the terms of your Lordship's despatch No. 520 of the 2nd instant, and have communicated to them copies of Mr. Lascelles' despatches to your Lordship No. 30 of the 16th April and No. 31 of the 18th April, and also a copy of your Lordship's despatch to Mr. Lascelles No. 37 of the 2nd instant, all relating to the complaints of the Mussulman landowners in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 17.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

Foreign Office, June 7, 1881.

(No. 234.)

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch to Mr. Goschen No. 199 of the 18th March and No. 341 of the 12th May (copies of which are in your Excellency's possession), I have to acquaint you that General Menabrea has informed me that the Italian Ambassador at Constantinople has been authorized by his Government to co-operate with the Ambassadors of the other Powers in the endeavour to come to an understanding with the Porte as to the future proceedings of the Montenegrin Boundary Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 18.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

Scutari, May 27, 1881.

(No. 64.)

My Lord,

I HAVE several times had occasion to mention in my Reports to your Lordship on the Prisrend League the name of Hadji Omer Effendi, the Mufti of that place, and the President of one of the Superior Tribunals.

He was one of the leading members of the League, and had a principal part in the selection of Shaïb Agha (Pasha) as Albanian Mutessarif of Prisrend.

Dervish Pasha was therefore most anxious to arrest Hadji Omer Effendi; but it appears his influence, as those who knew him expected, has been more lasting among the natives than was that of Shaïb Agha or Abdoul Bey Phrassari, and that he has now succeeded, with the assistance of the mountaineers and some inhabitants of Scutari, in escaping to Dulcigno.

I am not certain that the authorities here have not claimed his surrender from the Montenegrin Government, although they must have felt sure that the application would be disregarded.

The action which the Turkish Government has been unfortunately, at last, obliged to take against the Albanians, as was foreseen from the birth of the League three years ago, is hourly loosening the Sultan's hold over the minds of his Mussulman subjects in Albania, and is bringing them into connection with the neighbouring Christian States, in a way which may hereafter prove disastrous to Ottoman rule in these parts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 19.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 31.) *Canea, Crete, May 30, 1881.*

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 28 of the 22nd instant I related the measures voted by the General Assembly for the furtherance of public instruction and the improvement of the means of communication in Crete. The Christians having already drawn up a plan for extending education among themselves, the Mussulmans have now, in their turn, prepared their own School Bill. Education is in a more backward state with them than with their Christian fellow-countrymen; but if the new scheme is realized they will be quite abreast with their rivals in that respect. They propose that there shall be established a primary school in every village or group of villages which is able and willing to contribute the small sum of 1,000 piastres (8*l.*) annually; a secondary school in each of the five sandjaks, and a high school or gymnase in each of the three towns of Rethymo, Canea, and Candia, where they form the bulk of the population. Though modern Greek is their mother tongue, instruction has hitherto been conveyed to them in a foreign language, for such Turkish must be considered; but they have now ordered that Greek shall be taught in the high schools. This tardy acknowledgment of the claims of modern Greek is a hopeful sign of improvement.

The Assembly, wishing to put an end to the practice of advocates making exorbitant charges, have established a tariff of fees calculated on so illiberal a scale as to be quite unacceptable; for, if the penalties of fines and suspension of the right of practising their profession attached to a breach of the new tariff could be carried out, a clean sweep would soon be made of all the barristers who have lately come over from Athens. The new fees are fixed at 3 piastres (6*d.*) an hour!

The last subject which has occupied the attention of the Deputies is the Communal Law voted two years ago. The tax of an additional tithe of ½ per cent. for carrying out the provisions of that law, including the repair of the communal roads, and the payment of guardians for preventing the straying of cattle, &c., having been found inadequate for the purpose, some Members proposed to double the tax. As this proposal met with strenuous opposition, it was suggested at the last meeting that, while retaining the contribution of ½ per cent., the ordinary tithe of 10 per cent. on the grain crops should be reduced to 8 per cent., and another 1 per cent. added to the communal tax. By this measure the peasantry would be paying 9½ per cent. on their grain crops, and 10½ per cent. on all other produce. The general revenue of the island would thus suffer a diminution of one-fifth under the former head, which it is hardly likely that the Porte will consent to, as it has a joint interest in the surplus of revenue over expenditure. It should be borne in mind, however, that the grain crops are less than the other productions of the soil, olives, carobs, &c., and do not amount on an average year to more than 4,000,000 piastres (32,000*l.*), the loss of general revenue being thus 6,400*l.* This question is to be further discussed to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 20.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 368. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, June 8, 1881, 6·29 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

I APPROVE your not acting with Russian Ambassador respecting Montenegrin frontier, for reasons stated in your telegram No. 276 of the 5th instant.

No. 21.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 67.) *Scutari, May 30, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that from a trustworthy source I learn that had hostilities commenced on the Hellenic frontier a most serious rising would have taken place among the Bulgarian section of the inhabitants in the district comprised between Ochrida and Monastir, and that the Turkish authorities appear to have been put in possession of some of the threads of the contemplated movement, as they have already arrested upwards of sixty of the Bulgarian Christians, sending some to Constantinople, and others to Monastir.

Among the prisoners is a well-known leader of the Bulgarian party at Ochrida, a Dr. Robbo, who, through his medical knowledge and general education, had gained considerable influence among his fellow-countrymen.

I am inclined to agree with my informant that whether this movement hoped to benefit or not by Greek complications, it must in no way be confounded with possible Hellenic political workings, to the ends of which it is diametrically opposed. Here, as elsewhere in the Balkan peninsula, all Bulgarian proceedings are considered to have a Russian origin, and, in any case, it may be accepted as a fact, that without pecuniary aid from abroad, political manœuvres among the native Christians would hardly be possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 22.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 8.)

My Lord,

Prevesa, June 4, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to subjoin copy of my despatch of to-day, acquainting Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires that the Albanian Beys, mentioned in my despatch No. 8 of the 28th ultimo to Mr. Goschen, will start to-morrow for the Dardanelles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Plunkett.

Sir,

Prevesa, June 4, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that the Albanian Beys mentioned in my despatch of the 28th ultimo will start to-morrow for the Dardanelles. They are to be accompanied, I hear, by the Chief of the Gendarmerie.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 23.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Acting Consul Woodley.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 11.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Santa Maura, June 5, 1881.

REFERRING to preceding correspondence relating to affairs in Lower Albania, I have now the honour to inform you that intelligence reached me from Prevesa to the effect that two of the principal Albanian notabilities—Mustapha Pasha Veliora of Avlona and Ali Bey Vrioni of Berat—were summoned a few days ago to meet the Vali at Prevesa and have since been informed that they would be conveyed to the Dardanelles by order of the Sultan. The Governor of Prevesa, Kiassim Bey (also an Albanian notability, and brother-in-law of Abédine Pasha), has been transferred to Beyrout. These gentlemen being more or less connected with the "Albanian League," their removal from the field where they exerted great personal influence could not but increase the discontent already prevailing among their partizans in Lower Albania, and render an understanding between Greece and Albania to a certain extent easier; an understanding which the emissaries sent quite recently to Albania by the Hellenic Government (as reported in my No. 60 of the 15th ultimo) believed to have secured.

The removal of Kiassim Bey will be sadly felt at Prevesa, his tact and energy in maintaining order, combined with his conciliatory disposition, being acknowledged by all

parties indiscriminately. He will be succeeded at Prevesa by the present Mutessarif of Larissa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ONOFRIO.

No. 24.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 571.)
Paris, June 10, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 520 of the 2nd instant, and to my despatch No. 555 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a note from M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire, acknowledging the receipt of the copies which I communicated to him of despatches from Mr. Lascelles relative to complaints of Mussulman land-owners in Bulgaria.

The note states that the French Consul-General at Sophia has been instructed to act in concert with Mr. Lascelles respecting this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 24.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire to Lord Lyons.

Paris, le 9 Juin, 1881.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

VOUS m'avez fait l'honneur de me communiquer, par votre lettre du 6 Juin, des extraits de la correspondance échangée, le mois d'Avril dernier, entre le Comte Granville et Mr. Lascelles, Agent et Consul-Général Britannique en Bulgarie. Mr. Lascelles a signalé dans ses Rapports, d'après les plaintes nombreuses qu'il a reçues, certains actes regrettables imputés à la Commission réunie à Kustendil pour régler différentes questions agraires. Les propriétaires Musulmans accusent la Commission, présidée à l'origine par M. Zankow, de leur contester leurs titres légitimes de propriété, et d'être allée même jusqu'à les obliger à restituer le prix de certaines ventes qu'ils avaient effectuées dans les conditions régulières.

Les Musulmans de Samakoff se sont également adressés, le 12 Avril, à Mr. Lascelles, pour lui faire entendre leur protestation, sur des faits analogues. Le Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de la Reine s'est préoccupé d'une situation aussi contraire à l'esprit et à la lettre du Traité de Berlin, et qui entretient entre les Bulgares de religion différente des haines fondées sur les inégalités choquantes. Par une dépêche du 2 Juin, Lord Granville prescrit à Mr. Lascelles, après s'être enquis de l'exactitude des faits qui lui ont été rapportés, de présenter au Gouvernement Princier des observations et des conseils propres à le ramener dans une voie plus favorable à l'apaisement, et de se concerter, pour cette démarche, avec ceux de ses collègues qui auraient des instructions semblables aux siennes.

J'informe M. Schefer, Consul-Général de la République à Sophia, des vues du Gouvernement de la Reine, et je l'invite à unir ses efforts à ceux de Mr. Lascelles. M. Schefer a reçu, d'ailleurs, des Musulmans de Kustendil, les mêmes réclamations que son collègue Anglais, et, d'après mes ordres, il a adressé au Gouvernement Princier des représentations qui ne sont pas demeurées sans effet. En continuant à s'employer pour faire disparaître des procédés des autorités Bulgares toute trace d'intolérance à l'égard des différentes classes de la population, notre Agent répondra aux intentions qui animent également, je suis heureux de le constater, les deux Gouvernements de France et d'Angleterre.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) B. ST. HILAIRE.

No. 25.

Consul-General Jones to Earl Granville.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 27.)
Philippopoli, June 2, 1881.

My Lord,

IN sequence of my despatch No. 24 of the 12th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the elections just held in this province have passed off without any disturbance or hostile demonstration, nor have the agitators made use of the events which are happening in the neighbouring Principality for the purpose of exciting the revolutionary passions of the people.

The "place-holders" have been returned to their former seats in the Assembly, notwithstanding the efforts of the "advanced party" to prevent them. On the other hand, the latter has received a considerable accession of strength on this occasion, and the representatives it has chosen are men of fair education and good repute.

It is to be noted that Dr. Yancoloff has on this occasion lost his seat in the Assembly by an overwhelming majority, which involves his retirement from the Permanent Committee at the end of the present Session. It was he who, as Prefect of Bourgas, was mainly responsible for the outrages committed on the Mussulman villagers of Messenvria-Anchialo in the month of April last year, and was dismissed from his post in consequence. He retained, however, his seat in the National Assembly, which, as a mark of sympathy and approbation, elected him shortly afterwards Vice-President of the Permanent Committee. Here he has on more than one occasion found himself required to sit in judgment on the consequences of his own misconduct as above stated, resulting (it is needless to say) in a contravention of authority and misprision of justice.

Race hatred and sectarian animosity have since then, however, considerably abated, and under the steady rule of law and order may eventually disappear, or at least be so far controlled as to render the recurrence of such scandals less possible for the future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

No. 26.

Consul-General Jones to Earl Granville.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 28.)
Philippopoli, June 3, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship that his Beatitude the Exarch of the Bulgarian Church, Mgr. Jossif, arrived at Philippopoli four days since on his way to Sophia, where he purposes remaining some time.

He addressed a short discourse to the concourse of people who were present to welcome him on his arrival here, the purport of which was "that he regarded with joy and pride the progress which Eastern Roumelia had made in material welfare since it had been entrusted with its own administration. That His Majesty the Sultan had expressed himself well satisfied with the condition of the province, and regarded it as one of the best administered in his dominions."

His Beatitude further observed "that the spectacle of such order, tranquillity, and progress could not fail to have its effect on the decisions of the European Powers, and lead to what they (his hearers) had most at heart, the extension to their Macedonian brethren of like blessings by the same means."

I had two interviews with his Beatitude during his short stay here, and on both occasions he spoke with much emotion of the pitiable condition of his co-religionists in Macedonia, and of the relentless cruelty and oppression they are made to endure unceasingly. The object of the Turkish authorities was apparently the destruction of every Bulgarian conspicuous in any way from his wealth or education, in order that none might remain but terror-stricken Rayahs, unresisting slaves. That his colleague, the Armenian Patriarch, had spoken of the course as followed in Armenia, where, unless the Powers at once interfered, there would be left no Armenians to save. His Beatitude affirmed that the chief, if not the only, hope of both nations was in the power and magnanimity of the British Government and people to save them from annihilation, and to this were their prayers and aspirations constantly directed, surrounded, as they were, on all sides by cruel enemies and faithless friends.

I promised to make your Lordship acquainted with his Beatitude's views and desires on these matters, and his earnest appeal for speedy sympathy and assistance on behalf of his suffering fellow-countrymen.

The Exarch is a comparatively young man (about 39 years of age), is well-educated, and bears a very high character among all classes and sections of the community on account of his enlightened opinions and freedom from bigotry and intolerance.

He intends to pass some months in Philippopoli after his return from Sophia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

No. 27.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 13.)

E

(No. 457.)

Therapia, June 6, 1881.

My Lord,

A MEETING of the Representatives of the Six Powers was held at the German Embassy on the 4th instant, at the suggestion of the Russian Ambassador, to consider what further steps should now be taken to obtain a solution of the Montenegrin Frontier question. In pursuance of the authority conveyed to me in your Lordship's telegram No. 857 of the 28th ultimo, I had the honour of attending this meeting, and took part in the discussion.

M. Novikow commenced by explaining that the reports which reached St. Petersburgh from Montenegro led his Government to believe that serious consequences would arise if an end were not soon put to the uncertainty which had so long existed respecting the division of the frontier districts between Turkey and Montenegro, beyond the Lake of Scutari. The happy concert of the Powers had solved the far more difficult question of Thessaly. He now begged for another combined effort to close, once for all, the long discussions to which the Montenegrin question had given rise. He disclaimed any desire on the part of Russia to take a leading part in the negotiations which he now hoped the Representatives would consent to reopen with the Porte, but, as no other Power seemed disposed to move, Russia could not allow the interests of Montenegro to be sacrificed. Therefore, he wished to ask of us what mode of joint proceeding we should be prepared to adopt in order to induce the Ottoman Government to accept a satisfactory solution.

There was a generally expressed concurrence in the desire for a settlement, but doubt was expressed by some of the Representatives whether it was not premature to raise this question before more progress had been made by the Ottoman Government in completing the arrangements under the Convention of the 24th May.

I ventured to remind his Excellency that the Turkish Government had not yet named either the Plenipotentiary to sign the Convention with Greece, nor had they chosen the Commissioners for the delimitation under Article I of the Convention of the 24th May, and, until this was done, it was very undesirable to give the Turks a pretext for delay by distracting their attention to other less important matters.

M. Novikow would not concede that the Montenegrin question was less important. Although it affected a portion of territory infinitesimally small in comparison to that which was included in the Greek question, the principle at issue, viz., that the will of Europe should be respected, was the same in both; and he, therefore, trusted he might count on the support of the Representatives.

A general consent having been given, with the distinct reserve by all, however, that no serious steps should be contemplated to enforce the proposed solution in Turkey, M. Novikow proceeded to explain that his Government would recommend the plan laid down in his Memorandum (copy of which was inclosed to your Lordship in Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 412 of the 24th ultimo), and to add to it the expression of the opinion of Europe, that it was the "thalweg" of the Boyana River, and not its right bank, which constituted the line of frontier near to Dulcigno.

No objection was made to the latter point, but some discussion arose on the modifications proposed by Russia in Captain Sale's line.

The feeling of the meeting was apparently to accept this proposal as the maximum which should be asked from the Turks, and to leave it to M. Novikow to carry it through if he could; but some of the Ambassadors having suggested that it should only be the basis, and that, if more could be got out of the Turks, all the better, I felt it my duty to express my dissent from this view, and my refusal to accept it except as the maximum.

The German Ambassador was good enough to support me, and the proposal, thus amended, was accepted unanimously.

M. Novikow, in view of the leading part which England has hitherto taken in the Montenegrin question, and of the reserve I had made to him privately some days before as regards the small rectification he proposed of the frontier near Sere until I had heard from

Captain Sale, said he must inquire of me whether, if the Ambassadors agreed to recommend the modification, I would feel myself authorized to agree to it.

After a short discussion, in which I found all the Ambassadors inclined to consider the possession of Serc as unimportant, I said that, in the interests of the prompt solution which all equally desired, I would make use of the discretionary power entrusted to me by my Government, and would consent to the rectification if the Turkish Government were willing to accept it.

It was then privately agreed that, although this proposal was to be submitted and pressed even upon the Porte, we reserved to ourselves the right of being satisfied with less, if, thereby, a prompt final solution could be obtained.

M. Novikow would have preferred more energetic action, but, in the end, expressed himself as satisfied with this somewhat platonic support.

The Russian Ambassador then inquired what mode of procedure would, in our opinion, be the best for giving due effect to the recommendation of the six Representatives.

It was eventually decided to charge the Russian and the Austro-Hungarian Ambassadors to make the proposal in our collective name, and endeavour to come to a satisfactory arrangement with the Porte.

M. Novikow did me the honour to press me to join him and Baron Calice in the steps to be taken at the Porte, but, while thanking his Excellency for the confidence he thus displayed in me, I said I did not wish to take any leading part, as I was only temporarily in charge pending the arrival of the Earl of Dufferin. I would, in the same manner as the other Representatives had promised to do, direct my Dragoman to inform Assim Pasha that he and Baron Calice were acting in the name of the Representatives in this matter, and that I indorsed all they were going to say to his Excellency in our name.

At the conclusion of the sitting M. Novikow drew up a Memorandum of the instructions upon which he considered he was to act, and in which, after hearing it read, we all expressed our concurrence.

A copy of this Memorandum is herewith inclosed.

This morning M. Novikow has told me that M. Onou yesterday submitted the proposal at the Porte, and that, on the whole, the Turkish Government did not appear to have received it unfavourably.

M. Novikow is himself to speak to-day about it at the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Memorandum drawn up by the Representatives on the Montenegrin Question.

IL a été convenu à la réunion des Représentants du 4 Juin de proposer à la Porte, comme base de discussion réductible selon les nécessités, les points suivants :—

1. A l'est du Lac de Scutari la frontière sera formée par une ligne intermédiaire entre celle du *status quo* que propose la Turquie et celle des Puissances indiquée dans leur note collective du 15 Septembre, 1880 (ligne du Capitaine Sale).

2. Comme compensation pour cette déviation de la ligne Europeénne au détriment du Monténégro, et afin de ne pas découvrir tout à fait la ville de Podgoritza en abandonnant à la Turquie tous les points qui la dominent, la Porte rasera les fortifications qu'elle pourrait avoir sur son territoire dans le voisinage de Podgoritza et consentira à rectifier la frontière du district de Dinoschi de manière à la faire passer un peu au sud de Sere (ne pas confondre avec un autre point du même nom sur le Zem).

Il est bien entendu qu'au sud du lac la frontière passera par le thalweg de la Boyana et non sur la rive droite de ce fleuve.

La dite solution sera définitive et aucun autre changement ne sera plus admis quant à l'ensemble de la délimitation Turco-Monténégrine.

Pour ce qui est du *modus procedendi* envers la Turquie, il a été convenu que les Ambassadeurs d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Russie feront valoir les propositions susmentionnées au nom collectif des Représentants des Six Puissances afin d'arriver à un accord avec la Sublime Porte.

No. 28.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 13.)

(No. 453.) *Therapia, June* 7, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 344 of the 2nd May, I have the honour to report that the Turkish Government lately inquired of Mr. Preziosi whether he was aware that a British naval officer had visited Scutari in his steam-launch, and if the Embassy knew what had caused this unusual proceeding on his part.

Copies of Mr. Preziosi's Memorandum, and of the reply which I desired him to make to the Porte, are herewith inclosed, for your Lordship's information.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 28.

Memorandum.

THE Sublime Porte has received a telegram from the Vali of Scutari, stating that on the morning of the 3rd instant an English iron-clad cast anchor at the mouth of the Boyana, and that a little after the officer in command proceeded up the river in a steam-launch as far as Scutari, where he paid a visit to Her Majesty's Consul-General.

In communicating to me this telegram, both the Minister for Foreign Affairs and his Mustechar requested me to furnish the Porte with some explanations about it, in case they should have to answer a question from the Palace.

(Signed) R. PREZIOSI.

Therapia, June 5, 1881.

Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

Memorandum.

IF further inquiry is made by the Porte, Mr. Preziosi will reply that the Embassy has not yet heard of the English steam-launch having visited Scutari, but it was aware that it was the intention of the officer in command to proceed up the river in his boat to pay complimentary visits to the British Consul-General and to the Ottoman authorities at Scutari.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

June 5, 1881.

Further inquiry having been made, I replied according to the above instructions.

(Signed) R. PREZIOSI.

Therapia, June 6, 1881.

No. 29.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 13.)

E

(No. 230. Confidential.) *Vienna, June* 8, 1881.

My Lord,

I YESTERDAY asked Baron Haymerle what instructions he had given to Baron Calice about the Montenegrin frontier.

He said that the Russian Ambassador has communicated to him a despatch from his Government proposing that the Representatives at Constantinople should proceed to draw up instructions for the Commissioners upon the basis of the maximum that would be conceded by Turkey, and, though he did not thoroughly understand the phrase, he had desired Baron Calice to proceed with his colleagues in the manner proposed.

Baron Haymerle, as I informed your Lordship, would have preferred leaving the matter to the discretion of the Commissioners, the vote of the majority of them being

decisive upon each point that arose; but he thought it best to agree to the proposal of the Russian Government.

His Excellency expressed a strong hope that the frontier to be drawn will, as far as possible, be that of the *status quo*, so that the difficulties attending demands for evacuation may be avoided.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 30.

Sir J. Walsham to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 13.)

E

(No. 295. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Berlin, June* 11, 1881.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 270 of the 2nd instant, I forwarded to the Minister for Foreign Affairs copies of the correspondence which accompanied it on the subject of the complaints of the Mussulman land-owners in Bulgaria with regard to the proceedings of the authorities in connection with their proprietary rights.

When I was at the Foreign Office to-day Count Stirum alluded to your Lordship's instruction to Mr. Lascelles of the 2nd instant, with a copy of which I had also furnished his Excellency.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs said that there could be no doubt whatever of Prince Alexander's wish to act fairly towards the Mussulman land-owners, but, under the existing Constitution, his hands were so tied that it was quite impossible for His Highness to carry out what he desired. The Prince had already, his Excellency added, got into difficulties with his Ministers for trying to interfere on behalf of these same proprietors, and it was M. Zancoff himself, recently the President of the Commission which had been named to examine the claims of the proprietors, and against which they complained, who was now opposing His Highness in the steps he was taking to obtain such a change in the existing Constitution as would enable him to deal more liberally with the Bulgarians.

At the present crisis, therefore, Count Stirum considered that, even if the complaints of the Mussulman proprietors were ascertained to be well-founded, it would be useless for the Representatives of the Powers to make any remonstrance, as the only answer which could be given by Prince Alexander would be that he was most anxious to remedy the state of things which had given rise to the complaints, but that he had no power to give effect to his own wishes in this respect.

His Excellency went on to say that the fact of M. Zancoff having been in correspondence with the Chief of Her Majesty's Government, and of Prince Alexander's policy having been commented upon in the House of Commons in a sense not altogether favourable to His Highness, might be calculated to create an impression in Bulgaria that Her Majesty's Government were opposed to the step which the Prince had lately taken with the sole view of obtaining such a modification of the Constitution as would allow of his carrying out honourably the promises he made when he accepted the offer of the Bulgarian Throne.

I told Count Stirum that Her Majesty's Government had avoided expressing any precipitate opinion on the subject of what had recently occurred in the Principality, and that, before forming any judgment on the subject, they would require to know more accurately the details of the case, as well as the nature and objects of Prince Alexander's intentions for the future.

In England there was, I added, always a disposition to notice with regret the slightest departure from constitutional usage, but I had not noticed anything in the debates in Parliament, and I felt sure there was not anything in the Prime Minister's answer to M. Zancoff acknowledging the latter's communication to him which could be interpreted in a sense hostile to Prince Alexander himself, for whom, I felt convinced, Her Majesty's Government entertained feelings of quite a different kind.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 31.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 423.)
Foreign Office, June 13, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE to request your Excellency to take such steps as you may consider most suitable for making it known to British subjects who may now be residing, or who may hereafter take up their abode, in any of the provinces of the Turkish Empire where brigandage prevails, that they do so at their own risk, and that Her Majesty's Government cannot in future undertake to make pecuniary advances to ransom them from the hands of brigands in the event of their being captured, or to relieve them from the dangers they may incur from a residence in Turkish territory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 32.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received June 15.)

(No. 235.)
Rome, June 7, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 223 of the 2nd instant, inclosing copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Bulgaria, respecting the complaints of Mussulman landowners with regard to the proceedings of the Bulgarian authorities in relation to their proprietary rights, and inclosing also a despatch addressed by your Lordship to Mr. Lascelles, directing him, in the event of these complaints proving to be well-founded, to concert with the Agents of other Powers to remonstrate against such proceedings as contrary to the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, and to inform your Lordship that I have communicated these papers to the Italian Government in compliance with your Lordship's instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 33.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 15, 7 P.M.)

(No. 300.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, June 15, 1881, 2 P.M.

I ARRIVED here at noon to-day in Her Majesty's ship "Antelope."

No. 34.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 426.)
Foreign Office, June 15, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE received Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 407 of the 24th ultimo relative to the appointment of Mustapha Agha Pronio as Major of the irregular forces at Paramithia, and I have to inform your Excellency that I approve the representations he made to the Porte respecting the employment of that person in the public service.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 35.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 70.)
Scutari, June 6, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE been assured by a person who is in a position to know, that Dervish Pasha had the other day to leave Ipek precipitately, and regain Prisrend by a road not generally used.

My informant told me that Ali Pasha of Goussigné had ascertained that the mountaineers around Jacova and Ipek were preparing an ambuscade against Dervish Pasha, and which he was afraid might even develop into an open attack against the General; he therefore induced him to at once abandon Ipek, and rejoin the bulk of his troops at Prisrend as described.

I have noticed within the last few days a more confident bearing in certain Albanian circles, which makes me believe that the first effect of Dervish Pasha's success is wearing off, and that an attempt may be made to bring down upon him the fate of Mehemed Ali Pasha; however, I think Dervish Pasha is not likely to lose easily the mastery he has gained over the Albanians, and their disconnected attempts at opposing the Ottoman authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 36.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 71.)
Scutari, June 6, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a letter which I asked a Mr. Bertram Buxton, an English gentleman whom I enabled to visit Prisrend, to write to me, with an account of the little he was allowed to gather there of Dervish Pasha's proceedings.

The Turkish General, who has a great aversion to the presence of foreigners when he is carrying out missions of the nature of the present one in North-east Albania, evidently made no exception in favour of Mr. Buxton, although I wrote to inform his Excellency that he was only a private traveller, and not a newspaper correspondent.

I have not been able to ascertain that there is any truth in the statement of fighting having occurred at Jacova on the 31st ultimo, made by Dervish Pasha to Mr. Buxton, although the latter saw on the following day a battery of mountain guns and some infantry leave Prisrend to join Hadji Osman Pasha at Jacova.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Mr. Buxton to Mr. Kirby Green.

Sir,

Scutari, June 6, 1881.

DURING a stay of forty-eight hours in Prisrend, May 31st and June 1st, I succeeded in collecting the following information:—

In the middle of last April Dervish Pasha left the Salonica-Mitrovitza railway, and marched with thirty battalions on Prisrend.

At Stimia he was opposed on the 20th April by Suleiman Bey, of Djakova, at the head of four or five thousand Albanians, acting under the orders of Hagi Omer, and Seinip Agha, of Prisrend, Ali Bey of Goussigné, holding aloof. The Albanians had no cannon, and were armed partly with Martinis, each man having just as much ammunition as he could carry in his cartridge belt. Suleiman Bey risked all and lost all in a wild attempt to take the Turkish cannon, and was repulsed with a loss of 500, to the Turkish loss of 37 killed and wounded, according to official accounts.

This was the only serious opposition encountered by Dervish Pasha, who on the 22nd April entered Prisrend, and soon after occupied Ipek and Djakova, in which latter place he arrested Seinip Agha, Hagi Omer and Seleiman Bey being still at liberty.

I was not allowed to go to Ipek and Djakova, Dervish Pasha saying that he had not yet had time to put things in order there; the conditions of these towns being similar to that of Ireland, but he would give me horses to go up the Sinar hill behind Prisrend, from which I could get a view of Djakova and Ipek, so that there would be no necessity to go there in person. Apparently Dervish Pasha wished to keep me out of Prisrend as much as possible while I was there, and to start me off to Scutari again as soon as possible. Mustah Pasha, second in command to Dervish, only shook hands with me when I called on him, and then went off to play cards; whilst Ali Bey of Goussigné, who is now in

Prisrend in Treaty with Dervish, refused to see me at all; so that I cannot say that I was politely treated by the Turks.

Dervish Pasha has disarmed the population of the occupied districts, and has established an inspection of all letters which pass through the post; besides which he is rigorously collecting arrears of taxes, which have now not been paid for four years. In the case of absentees, the relations are forced to pay under penalty of imprisonment. In spite of this the Christian inhabitants feel that they are only secure in the presence of the troops, for the assassins and perpetrators of outrages have not been arrested, nor does Dervish appear to have taken any steps towards having them arrested.

The people in the streets did not appear to look upon us with any suspicion, and we were able to walk about the town without the least danger of molestation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. H. BUXTON.

No. 37.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 91.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 15, 1881.*

IN view of difficulties raised by the Turks with regard to Montenegro frontier, and their wish to maintain *status quo*, M. de Giers has instructed Russian Ambassador to try and concert with his colleagues that they should urge the Porte to accept the boundary proposal of Captain Sale, and, in case of Porte refusing, that they should tell Sultan's Minister that the Powers must fall back upon the collective note of the 3rd September last.

No. 38.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 380.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 16, 1881, 5·10 P.M.*

MACHINERY of Her Majesty's ship "Cygnet" having broken down, Admiralty propose to send "Bittern" to Salonica to replace her.

Do you think it now necessary to retain a second vessel at Constantinople?

No. 39.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 73.) *Salonica, June 6, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of two despatches which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople on the subject of brigandage in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 39.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Plunkett.

Salonica, June 2, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a translated copy of a letter, purporting to be from six brigand chiefs in Mount Olympus, and which was left at this Consulate-General during my recent journey to the coast of Cassandra.

My Austrian, French, Italian, and Russian colleagues have each received a similar letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 39.

Letter from Brigand Chiefs in Mount Olympus to Foreign Consuls in Salonica.

(Traduction.)

LES Soussignés, chefs de corps et capitaines, croient de leur devoir de vous exposer ce qui suit:— [*No date.*]

Il y a trois ans que les habitants de l'Epire, de la Thessalie, et de la Macédoine se sont révoltés, ne pouvant plus supporter les injustices des Turcs tendant à la ruine complète des Chrétiens. Nous croyons inutile de les raconter parce qu'elles sont déjà connues de tous les Gouvernements et du monde civilisé; l'Europe elle-même, aujourd'hui encore travaille inutilement à remettre l'ordre dans l'Empire Ottoman. Les Puissances intervinrent, promettant aux insurgés que, s'ils déposaient les armes, leurs vies, leur honneur, et leurs biens seraient en sûreté, et qu'il serait tenu compte de leurs droits. On déposa, en effet, les armes, mais les insurgés qui avaient fait leur soumission devinrent les victimes des autorités Ottomanes, civiles et militaires, qui se firent un devoir de les persécuter de toutes les manières par l'emprisonnement, la bastonnade, les tourments, et les exactions, et ce ne fut pas seulement les révoltés qui avaient déposé les armes, qui furent en butte à ces persécutions, mais leurs parents et leurs amis, auxquels, restés tranquilles, on n'avait rien à reprocher. Il est ainsi devenu évident que les promesses faites par les Turcs n'étaient que fraude et fourberie, tant à l'égard des habitants révoltés qu'à l'égard de l'Europe.

De là vient que, ayant sous les yeux l'exemple de nos frères Chrétiens, nous avons cru devoir garder les armes et demeurer dans les montagnes, afin de protéger notre vie, préférant s'il fallait mourir, succomber honorablement, les armes à la main, plutôt que de languir dans les tourments et les prisons.

On nous accuse, et nous flétrit du nom d'assassins, &c.; aussi venons-nous faire en peu de mots appel à votre justice! Nous sommes des "Klephtes" dans les montagnes, et voici ce qu'on a à nous reprocher. Nous mettons à contribution ceux qui ont les moyens et qui lancent à notre poursuite les autorités civiles et militaires, nous tuons ceux qui nous trahissent, et ceux-ci sont la cause que plusieurs innocents périssent aussi. Nous ne faisons pas de mal aux autres; nous prenons du pain, mais nous le payons pour que les pauvres n'en souffrent pas. Quant aux Gouverneurs Ottomans, aux fonctionnaires civils et militaires, ils ont, dans leur rage, miné, abîmé d'exactions, tourmenté et imprisonné injustement les habitants, déshonoré les femmes. Quelle différence y a-t-il donc entre le Klephte et le Gouvernement de l'Empire Ottoman? Si vous y regardez de près et impartialement vous verrez que cette différence est très grande, et qu'elle est comme 1 à 100. Il y a eu parmi nous un seul capitaine qui avait commis des injustices et des infamies, et pour cette raison nous l'avons mis à mort. Sachez, en outre, que nul d'entre nous n'a le désir de mener la vie de brigand; mais que pouvons-nous faire? Toutes les fois que nous sommes entrés en négociations pour nous rendre, et que nous avons prêté foi aux promesses des autorités on nous a trompés et fait périr, comme vous le savez déjà, et c'est à celles-ci, paraît-il, qu'il faut l'attribuer, parce qu'elles ont sans doute intérêt à ce que le brigandage subsiste, afin de boire et de manger, et d'opprimer les malheureux paysans. Ce n'est donc pas nous, vous le voyez, qui sommes la cause du malheureux état de choses, et nous n'avons plus qu'à choisir entre deux parties: ou bien nous rendre, avec la certitude que nous serons pendus ou jetés en prison, pour y mourir, ainsi qu'il est arrivé à tant d'autres après leur soumission; ou, au contraire, rester en armes et mourir avec honneur, en nous défendant. Et si, jusqu'ici, nous n'avons pas fait usage de nos armes contre les officiers et les soldats, nous ne garderons pas à l'avenir cette mesure, et nous leur donnerons la chasse, ainsi qu'ils nous la donnent à nous-mêmes, tirant avantage de la réserve que nous nous imposions.

Sachez, en outre, que cette année, au mois d'Avril, plus de 200 hommes se sont insurgés, par suite de l'oppression et des injustes persécutions qu'ils ne pouvaient plus supporter, et qui leur ont fait considérer le séjour des montagnes comme le seul asile qui leur restât. Dieu sait quand les paysans demeurés dans les villages qui entourent l'Olympe verront la fin de leurs maux.

Si vous daignez le faire, nous vous supplions d'intervenir, et ainsi vous rendrez un grand service aussi bien au Gouvernement Ottoman qu'au peuple opprimé. Nous sommes

prêts à obéir à vos ordres. Nous envoyons une lettre semblable à vos collègues, MM. les Consuls de Thessalonique. Sachez aussi ceci, que, quels que soient vos ordres, nous nous y conformerons, c'est à dire que, dût le Gouvernement Ottoman prendre jusqu'à notre vie, nous nous tiendrons pour satisfaits, parce que ce ne seront point les Turcs, mais les Puissances Européennes qui nous l'auront ôtée.

Nous ne voulons pas vous importuner davantage, et nous vous saluons avec respect.

Les Capitaines,

(Signé) ALBANASE S. SPANOS.
CHRISTOS DAVELIS.
T. KAMANKOS.
GEORGE AGRAPHIOTIS.
CHRISTOS KLITCHAKOS.
JEAN SAPPOS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 39.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Plunkett.

Salonica, June 4, 1881.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegram of the 30th ultimo to Mr. Goschen, announcing the destruction of twenty-three brigands in the district of Cassandra, I have the honour to report that these brigands belonged to the band of "Captan" Vassili, which was composed of twenty-seven individuals, and which perpetrated numerous outrages in Macedonia. From the district of Cassandra alone they kidnapped, within the last two months, no less than fifteen hostages (twelve Mahommedans and three Christians); and when the troops suddenly attacked the band, which was concealed in Mount Hortiatch, three hours' distance from Salonica, they had the satisfaction to rescue five Mahommedan captives. Three of the brigands were captured alive, one of them a Hellene; and the latter has made important disclosures to the authorities respecting parties at Salonica and other places who, for a long time, have been suspected of supporting brigandage in Macedonia. The chief of the band, "Captan" Vassili, is still at large, but as he was wounded during the late encounter with the troops, the authorities hope to capture him also.

None of the above brigands belong to the bands which captured Mr. Suter, and, so far, the authorities have not got any clue as to their whereabouts.

I strongly suspect that these bands, after receiving Mr. Suter's ransom, dispersed, and concealed themselves in the villages, from where they will endeavour to effect their escape either to Greece or Bulgaria.

The energetic measures adopted by Salih Pasha, and the total destruction of Vassili's numerous band in such close proximity to this town, have produced a very good effect on, and inspired confidence in, the population; and it is earnestly hoped, now that the Frontier Convention has been accepted by Turkey and Greece, that public security in the interior will once more be re-established.

While referring to brigandage, I should add that further serious outrages have occurred in the districts of Vodina, Caraferia, and Caterina, where the bands which were concealed during winter in Mount Olympus have once more commenced their operations.

I inclose copy of a letter from Mr. J. Rogotti, a British subject, giving an account of an attack made, towards the end of last month, on his farm at Neohori, in the district of Caraferia.

I have addressed an official representation of this case to the authorities.

Salih Pasha, who had already promised me to send troops to the spot, has informed me that, owing to the small number at his disposal, he could not, for the present, permanently station troops at outlying villages, as he required all the available force for continually scouring the districts infested by brigands.

He, however, has sent orders to the Military Commandant of Caraferia to give his best attention to the matter, with a view of preventing the brigands from injuring Mr. Rogotti's property.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 39.

Mr. Rogotti to Consul-General Blunt.

Salonique, le 1er Juin, 1881.

M. le Consul-Général,

J'AI pris la liberté de vous envoyer hier soir une lettre de l'Intendant de mon Tchiflik Neohori, situé à Oroumlik, de laquelle il dérive que des brigands y sont entrés, qu'ils ont captivés trois villageois, et que sous menace de brûler toutes les moissons, ils exigent £ T. 200 de moi, 200 autres des villageois, et une autre somme à part pour la rançon des captifs.

En réitérant le contenu de mes requêtes adressées à l'autorité locale par votre entremise le 2 Avril et 20 Juillet, 1880, et le 9 Mai dernier, et sous réserve de tous mes droits, je vous prie, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir bien transmettre le double de ma présente à l'autorité locale compétente, afin que toutes les mesures nécéssaires soient prises pour prévenir tout mal, et surtout que la garde des soldats qui y était auparavant, et qui fut enlevée depuis longtemps contre mes instances assidues soit rétablie, et en même temps de vouloir bien prêter vos bons offices efficaces aux fins requises.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) J. ROGOTTI.

No. 40.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 302.)
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram No. 380. *Constantinople, June 17, 1881.*

There is no necessity for retaining a second vessel here at the present moment.

No. 41.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 19.)

My Lord,

6, *Albemarle Street, W., June 18, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to return herewith the despatch No. 457 of the 6th instant, from Mr. Plunkett, together with its inclosures, and have to offer thereupon the following observations:—

The modification proposed by the Russian Ambassador on the line alluded to in the inclosed papers as "la ligne du Capitaine Sale" would be an improvement if the Porte could be brought to accept it.

But in the definition contained in my No. 6 of the 17th January last, I gave what I understood from my Turkish colleague to be the extreme limit of concession that he was prepared to recommend.

If, however, the modification be adopted, it would be very desirable to avoid the vagueness of definition involved in the definition "un peu au sud de Sere," &c., by substituting for the words "un peu," some defined distance, say half a kilometre.

Though these hills are in themselves almost absolutely worthless, they are nevertheless the subject of so much embittered quarrelling that it is particularly necessary to leave no pretext for further misunderstanding.

The Memorandum inclosed in Mr. Plunkett's despatch makes no mention of the question of decision by the majority in the future work of the Commission. This is an essential point; without it we cannot hope to make satisfactory progress locally.

I would venture to deprecate the mixing up of the question of the thalweg of the Boyana with that of the unsettled frontier east of the Lake of Scutari.

The former question can at any time be settled after the actual delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier is completed. But if this matter of the Boyana, on which the Turks have an excellent case, be coupled with that of the unsettled frontier, it appears to me very much like inviting the Porte to postpone the settlement of the latter, whilst arguing their case on the former question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. T. SALE.

No. 42.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 20.*)

(No. 9.)
Prevesa, June 11, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of my despatches of to-day's date to Mr. Plunkett relating to the Roumanian Propaganda in Epirus and to the arrival of troops and Turkish families from Arta.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 42.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Plunkett.

Prevesa, June 11, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that Mr. Kypriotis reports that "hard words" having been exchanged a few weeks back at Metzovo between Apostoli Margaritu, the emissary of the Roumanian Propaganda, and a Dr. Tsinaburi, in consequence of an attempt made by the former to induce the Kutzo-Vlachs to sign a petition against annexation to Greece, and also to establish schools there at the expense of the Propaganda, the latter was arrested and sent under escort to Janina, where he was tried by the Military Tribunals and sentenced to be exiled to Arabia; but the sentence has still to receive the sanction of the Central Government.

I have from time to time sent in reports respecting the intrigues of Apostoli Margaritu. My present object, however, is to call attention to the encouragement which this individual appears to receive from the local authorities, with the view, no doubt, of crushing that feeling in favour of Greek nationality which prevails among the Kutzo-Vlachs.

I am under the impression, however, that the Kutzo-Vlachs in general are too much in favour of the Greek cause to desert it, and, further, that in assisting the Roumanian Propaganda the authorities are only creating new difficulties, which the Turkish Government may one day be called upon to face.

The Albanian question was raised in the same manner, and for the same object. I always looked upon that movement as a piece of bad policy, and my predictions as to the difficulties that would have to be overcome by the Sublime Porte have unfortunately, to a very great extent, proved correct (see despatch of the 28th August, 1880, to Mr. Goschen). The same may, perhaps, be expected to result from the policy pursued at present in favour of the Roumanian Propaganda. I therefore believe that it would be wiser for the Porte, and more to her interest, if things were left to take their course rather than join the one or the other of the two factions, for whatever the result, it will always be against the Turkish Government.

The Kutzo-Vlachs are perhaps the most thriving people in Epirus, but owing to the insecurity that exists of late years in their districts from the great increase of brigandage, the wealthier class has almost entirely dispersed. A great many of this class have settled down at Prevesa, where they have bought lands and built houses, the best in the place, and a great part, the greater, perhaps, of the commerce of this port is carried on by them, so much so that the name of "Vlaco-horn" (Vlach-town) is at present not unfrequently applied to Prevesa.

The following is a list of the Kutzo-Vlach villages in Epirus forwarded to me last year by Mr. Kypriotis:—

Zagori.—Greviniti, Flamboüri, Paleochori, Leonitza, Tsernessi, Makrinou, Vovoussa, Laista, Dombrinovo.—Greek schools for boys and girls exist in all these villages.

Málakussi.—Metzovo, Siraco, Kahrites.—Schools as above.

Grevená.—Samarina, Perivoli, Avthela, Krania, Smitzi.—Schools have been opened by the Roumanian Propaganda at Samarina, Avthela, and Smitzi.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 42.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Plunkett.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Tiranah and Elbassan battalions arrived here from Arta on Sunday last. Their removal from Arta appears to be in consequence of the intended cession of that town to Greece.

Prevesa, June 11, 1881.

Several Turkish families have also arrived.

A report circulated here the other day that an attempt was made at Arta to set fire to that town, but there is nothing to prove the veracity of the report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 43.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 20.*)

(No. 82.)
Belgrade, June 15, 1881.

My Lord,

IN the course of conversation to-day M. Mijatovich took occasion to contradict a report in the German press to the effect that Prince Milan had sought and obtained the assent of Austria to his recognition as King, on the condition that Servia made still further concessions in the matter of frontier traffic. He assured me that the report was absolutely without foundation. Nothing would induce the Government to extend the concessions it had already reluctantly made.

I said to M. Mijatovich that if he would not consider the question an indiscreet one, I would like to ask him whether there was any foundation for another report, which had appeared in an English paper, to the effect that the condition offered by Austria was that Servia should join with her in a military alliance, with the effect of putting her army at Austria's disposal and command in the event of war.

His Excellency at once replied that it would not only mean that, but also the introduction into the Servian army of the military system and organization of Austria. All he could do was to assure me that in the conversations he had had with Baron Haymerle nothing whatever of the kind had been even hinted at, and that no Servian Minister would ever dare to entertain such a proposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 44.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 20.*)

(No. 313. Extender.)
St. Petersburgh, June 15, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. de Giers spoke to me to-day with regard to the difficulties which the Turks are raising with respect to the Montenegrin frontier, and to their desire to maintain the *status quo* which at present exists with regard to that frontier. In view of this M. de Giers stated that he had sent instructions to M. de Novikow, His Imperial Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, to endeavour to arrange with his colleagues that they should urge upon the Porte the acceptance of the boundary line drawn out by Captain Sale; and that in the event of the Porte refusing, that they should then inform the Sultan's Ministers that the alternative was to fall back upon the collective note of the Powers of the 3rd September last.

M. de Giers said that he thought that if this was held out as a sort of threat it might induce the Porte to accept the boundary proposed by Captain Sale, and thus avoid re-opening the whole question, which, his Excellency said, he was anxious to see closed like the Greek Frontier question, in the execution of which his Excellency expressed the hope that no complications would arise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 45.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 34.) *Canea, Crete, June 11, 1881.*

My Lord,

THE General Assembly, after rejecting the proposal for limiting the right exercised by the Cretans of cutting down their forests, as reported in my last despatch of the 6th instant, showed more enlightenment in the passing of an administrative measure of real utility. Seeing that the different posts in the island are now, with few exceptions, occupied by Cretans, who are frequently employed in the places of their birth, an arrangement obviously liable to abuse, it has been decided that the upper class of civil employés and the police generally shall exercise their functions in places at a distance from their homes, where they will be debarred from the right of voting, now so important a part of the Cretan's birthright. This measure, which is one of purely local interest, and therefore not requiring the sanction of the Porte, is to be put into execution within a month.

During the rest of the week ended to-day the Assembly has been occupied in preparing the local Budget. The first question which engrossed their attention was the claim of the mosques to certain tithes valued at from 300,000 to 1,000,000 piastres annually, according to the produce of the crops. By the XIIIth clause of the Convention of October 1878 it was agreed that the receipts and expenses of vacouf property (Mussulman pious foundations) should not form part of the local Budget. When it became known, however, that tithes of considerable value were included in the receipts of the vacouf lands, the Governor-General appointed a Commission to investigate the subject more thoroughly, and it was shown that no fewer than thirty villages paid the whole or a part of their tithes under the title of vacouf, which the Vali accordingly sequestered until the Assembly should pronounce upon this question. The Christians have therefore unanimously decided that these tithes belong of right to the island Budget, a decision against which the Mussulman minority as unanimously protested, citing the above-named Article in the Convention in support of their right to them. The Christians, while declaring their wish to respect the Convention, alleged that the Turkish Commissioner had neglected to explain to the deputies of the insurgents the true nature of the Vacoufs which were claimed, and that, now that it was known that the mosques had been encroaching on the legitimate revenue of the country, they were determined that the abuse should cease. They have further charged the Administrative Council with the duty of examining the title-deeds of all vacouf property, as it is shrewdly suspected that, as the Christian element of the population had, until the last three years, no real influence in the Local Government, other abuses besides those now brought to light may have crept into the important Department of the Evcaf.

The revenue of the past financial year ending the 12th March sufficed not only to meet the current expenses and to repay a loan of 18,000*l.*, but left besides a small surplus. Although, according to law, the Porte has a right to the half of any surplus that may remain, the Assembly have decided that it shall be carried over to the credit of the current financial year, the revenue of which is estimated to amount to only 46,000*l.*, which will leave a deficit calculated at 16,500*l.* In years when it is found impossible to meet the current expenses with the ordinary revenue, the Porte engages to contribute a sum up to the half of the customs receipts to supply the deficit. This half may be taken to amount to 13,500*l.*, so that, with that addition, it is hoped that an equilibrium between receipts and revenue will be established.

An attempt was made by the Christian Members of the Assembly to abolish the post of Mouavin, a subordinate functionary attached to Mutessarif Pashas and Kaimakams. Though their uselessness is generally acknowledged, the Mussulman Deputies, who are always averse to sanction any alterations in the Organic Law, resisted the attempt, and as, without their concurrence, a two-thirds vote necessary to modify the Law could not be obtained, the measure was thrown out. In order to carry their point, the Christians voted that the salaries of the Mouavins should be reduced to nominal amounts, and in this way they hope to succeed in getting rid of these useless employés, as in the fixing of salaries a bare majority suffices. Both sections of the Assembly concurred in voting the reduction of the salaries of the Mutessarif Pashas (four in number) from 5,000 to 3,600 piastres a-month (38*l.* to 28*l.*), a sum scarcely adequate for functionaries of their class.

The right of the Assembly to fix the salaries of employés, and in general to dispose of the local revenue, is one which the Porte contests. Last year it refused to sanction the lowering of the Mutessrifs' salaries, and the refusal created very great dissatisfaction. This year they have again voted a reduction of salaries, and if the Porte should persist in

withholding its consent to the measure, I foresee that it will thereby produce a spirit of opposition which will not easily be allayed. Photiades Pasha is aware of this, and is prepared, I believe, to advise his Government to concede the point.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 46.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 75.)

My Lord, *Salonica, June 12, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Report which Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth has addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, and a summary of which I telegraphed to your Lordship this morning, on the subject of the proceedings of the Ottoman authorities in Thessaly in connection with the Turco-Greek Convention.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 46.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Mr. Plunkett.

Sir, *Larissa, June 8, 1881.*

ON the 1st instant Hallil Bey, the Civil Governor of Thessaly, received from the Porte a telegraphic summary of such of the Articles of the Turco-Hellenic Convention as relate more directly to the inhabitants of the territory ceded to Greece, with instructions to make them publicly known without awaiting the full text of the Convention, its Annex, and its map.

On the same day a telegram from the Sub-Governor of Phersala informed his Excellency that the majority of the Mussulmans in that district had decided to expatriate themselves, and that with this intent they were fast selling their effects by public auction. His Excellency at once commissioned Hybri Bey, a member of the Civil Court of Justice, to proceed to Phersala to calm the fears of the Mahommedans. He directed him to dissuade them from deserting their homes and from selling their chattels at a loss by explaining to them that under Greek rule their life, honour, property, and religion shall be scrupulously respected, and that they are for three years insured, in addition to complete civil and political equality, of an exemption from military service, and an option of retaining their Ottoman nationality. He also authorized this functionary to have the Mufti of Phersala removed to Larissa, if he is chiefly to blame for this agitation, as is thought probable owing to his recent conduct, which I have already reported in my despatch of the 4th ultimo.

His Excellency, moreover, delegated with similar tranquillizing missions the Mufti to Tirnavo, Agha, and Serreli, Housni Bey to Tricala, Gallip Effendi to Karditza, and Dervish Bey to Vellestino and Armyro. These Notables, who are publicly recognized as the Headmen of the Mahommedan element in Thessaly, have succeeded, I am told, in accomplishing their mission in a satisfactory and laudable manner.

I have further to report that the central authorities at Larissa have had some 500 copies of Articles III, IV, VI, VII, VIII, IX, and XIII of the Turco-Hellenic Convention printed in Turkish for distribution among the Mussulman population.

The Governor, in mentioning the matter to me, intimated his intention of having a proportionally larger number in Greek put in circulation among the Christian inhabitants, as all public notices of an official kind must be issued in both languages. I at once advised his Excellency against such a sudden and extensive notification of the provisions among the Greek people. I argued that such knowledge for them at present is not only superfluous, but altogether premature, and would, without any beneficial effect, cause unnecessary excitement, if not considerable mischief.

Hallil Bey deeming this a duty which he could not very well avoid, I strongly urged him, before its adoption, to consult on the subject the landed proprietors, as well as the more prominent and trustworthy members of the Greek and Turkish communities; for, I observed, there is reason to believe that during the last few years emissaries from Greece

had led the Rayah tenantry more or less to expect that freedom from Turkish rule meant a participation by them of Turkish estates; and consequently, any sudden disappointment may prompt the Christians, through motives of covetousness, to hold a menacing attitude towards the Mahommedans, in order to induce the latter to sell out, so as to purchase themselves at a cheap rate the real and personal belongings of their hitherto more favoured countrymen, thus bringing about, I added, a general Mussulman emigration from Thessaly, which is certain to involve the Ottoman Government in complication, expense, and trouble.

His Excellency said he would reconsider the matter, and yesterday he informed me that both Greeks and Turks concur in expressing the opinion that it would be highly impolitic just now to make the Rayah villagers officially acquainted with the conditions attending their transfer to Greek rule; and that he had therefore decided to leave them to find out for themselves by a gradual process the stipulations in general, and those in particular which concern the relations between landlords and tenants.

In conclusion, I have to state that the civil and military authorities in Thessaly have as yet in no way relaxed their efforts towards the maintenance of public order, and that the administrative affairs of the province continue in their normal condition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 47.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 22.)

(No. 77.)
My Lord, *Salonica, June* 14, 1881.

I LEARN from persons who have recently visited Prisrend, and from other private sources, that Dervish Pasha pursues a moderate and lenient policy towards the Albanian Chiefs, who it appears have been overawed by his late military operations against the League. They see plainly that it is in the power of the Sultan's Government to punish them; and it is not likely that they will renew or encourage further rebellious proceedings.

Dervish Pasha has recently visited Djacova and Ipék, and succeeded in re-establishing the Civil Government there.

The Malisoris of Djacova, the most turbulent of the Albanian Ghega clans, have made their submission, and sworn compliance with the military conscription, which my informants say is now being quietly effected there, as well as at Ipek and Prisrend, and generally in all the districts of the Vilayet of Cossova. Already 550 Albanian recruits have been selected by lot, and drafted into the army; and yesterday evening 230 recruits arrived from Prisrend, and will be embarked to-day in the Turkish mail-steamer for the Dardanelles and Constantinople.

The Government taxes also are now regularly levied, and the most influential mountain Chieftains have promised their co-operation with the Porte's authority for effecting a regular census, in order to classify the people for military service, according to their age and fitness for it; and for fairly assessing the sheep and "virghu" taxes, two measures which the provincial authorities had hitherto never succeeded in effectively carrying out in North-eastern Albania.

Dervish Pasha is now preparing to proceed to Dibra and Matt, for the purpose of resettling those districts.

Prisrend is now occupied by ten battalions of infantry, with two batteries of artillery, and half a regiment of cavalry. Its civil government has been intrusted to Ferik Mehmed Pasha, who is actively engaged in re-establishing, under the supervision of Dervish Pasha, the different branches of the Local Administration.

Eight battalions of infantry, with 2 batteries of artillery and 1 squadron of cavalry, occupy Djacova, under the command of Ferik Moussa Kiazim Pasha, who also acts as Civil Governor.

Three battalions, 1 battery of artillery, and 1 squadron of cavalry are stationed at Ipek; 2 battalions occupy Verisovitz; 2, Pristina; 1, Uscup; 2, Dibra; 3 or 4 battalions and 1 battery of artillery occupy Mitrovitza; and the remainder of Dervish Pasha's army is employed on the Bulgarian and Servian frontiers.*

* The Ferik Ahmet Hifzi Pasha carries on the duties of Governor-General of the Vilayet of Cossova, with Tahir Pasha, Mutessarif of the Sandjak of Uscup, under him.

The most important measure which Dervish Pasha has contrived to carry out in the Vilayet of Cossova, and which will greatly contribute to the security of the Christian inhabitants, and the general tranquillity of the country, is the strict prohibition to carry arms.

The Austrian Vice-Consul at Uscup, who very recently visited Salonica, assured me that this police measure was very rigidly observed in the Sandjak of Uscup, and has already been followed by a marked decrease of crime and lawlessness; and one of my informants, who arrived here yesterday evening from Prisrend, has related to me the following instance of the determined manner in which Dervish Pasha enforces this prohibition:—

On the 8th instant an Albanian of Prisrend, an old offender, Jussuf, son of Rustem, was discovered by the police roaming about the town with arms in his possession. He refused to surrender, and shot one of the police before his capture was effected. He was immediately tried by the local court-martial, was condemned to death, and the following morning was publicly executed in the market-place.

All the leading Chieftains who have made their submission to Dervish Pasha, and co-operate with the authorities in the pacification of the country, are kindly treated by his Excellency, who, it is said, has recommended several of them to the Porte for service in the Provincial Administration.

Only a limited number of arrests has been made at Prisrend of persons who had encouraged overt armed resistance to the Sultan's Government, or otherwise identified themselves with the League; and as most of them held provincial appointments when they joined the League, Dervish Pasha is disposed to make an example of their seditious and treacherous conduct.

Their names are as follows:—

Shuaïb Agha, late member of Council of Prisrend; Mehmed Effendi, late Accountant of Prisrend; Hadji Yonouz Effendi, also of Prisrend; Abdul Effendi, ex-Mufti, and Mehmed Agha, ex-Chief of Police, of Uscup; Rauf Effendi, Ulema, of Kulkandelen; and Abdul Bey Phrassari, Notable of Epirus.

One of the most influential and active members of the League of Prisrend, Hadji Omer Effendi, succeeded in effecting his escape, to Duleigno, it is said. His harem, composed of one wife and three children, has been sent to Salonica, and placed under police surveillance.

Besides the arrests made at Prisrend, several Tosca Albanian Notables, suspected of conspiring with the League against the Sultan's authority, have been recently apprehended in Epirus and Macedonia, and sent to the Dardanelles by order of Dervish Pasha. The following are their names:—

Pertev Effendi, late Kaïmakam of Caraferia, and Mustapha Bey, late Mutessarif of Drama, in Macedonia. Mustapha Pasha, of Avlona; Omer Bey Vrioni, of Berat; Mustapha Bey, of Janina; Kiazim Bey, Mutessarif of Prevesa; and Suleiman Dinos, of Paramythia: all in Epirus.

Of the above, Kiazim Bey, Mustapha Bey, Suleiman Dinos, and Pertev Bey are, I am told, near relations of Abédine Pasha, late Minister for Foreign Affairs; and two of them were appointed by him, when Vali of Salonica, to important posts in Macedonia, viz., Mustapha Bey as Mutessarif of Drama, and Pertev Bey as Kaïmakam of Karaferia (Veria).

I also hear that it appears, from the secret correspondence found in the possession of Abdul Bey Phrassari, that all the above-named individuals were more or less engaged as active leaders and instigators in a design pointing to the separation of North and South Albania from the Turkish rule, and its erection into two Principalities under separate Princes.

I cannot say how far the information which I have reported in this despatch is to be relied on. Most of it is derived from private and irresponsible sources, but in several particulars it is corroborated by my foreign colleagues, and public opinion here generally acknowledges that Dervish Pasha has, to all appearances, broken up the rule of the League, and reduced the Albanians to submission with unlooked-for success.

Should this be the case, the Porte now has a favourable opportunity for consolidating the authority and prestige of the Sultan by introducing the reforms recommended by the European Commission under the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 48.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 78.)
My Lord, *Salonica, June* 14, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, extract from a letter relative to a very serious act of brigandage which was perpetrated on the 27th ultimo in Livadia, a Vlach village in district of Yenidjé-Vardar, in Sandjak of Salonica.

The military authorities of Salonica continue their pursuit of the brigands in district of Cassandra.

Till now they have destroyed twenty-five brigands, and captured nine; but, unfortunately, they have not yet succeeded in discovering the whereabouts of the bands that captured Mr. Suter.

In other parts of Macedonia, especially in the districts on this side of Mount Olympus, there has been no diminution of the evil.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Extract from a Letter from Livadia, dated May $\frac{15}{27}$, 1881.

C'EST aujourd'hui au grand matin que les brigands sont entrés à Livadia, village de 450 maisons, et habités par des bergers Vlachs.

La bande était commandé par cinq chefs: Panayotto Caloyero, George Tcharmis, Thanas Ganias, Maldjas, et Djamali. Les trois premiers sont Grecs, et les deux Albanais Turcs. Ils étaient en tout soixante-seize personnes, la moitié Chrétiens, et l'autre moitié Albanais Turcs.

Les brigands, après avoir tué le fils du principal berger Vretta, qui a voulu faire de résistance, réunirent tous les habitants dans une place publique, leur enlevèrent d'abord ce qu'ils portaient sur eux d'argent et de bijoux, ensuite ils dévalisèrent le village, ils emportèrent en fait d'or, d'argent, d'habits (entre autre 450 ceintures d'argent comme les portent les femmes) pour une valeur d'environ 7,000 livres Turques. Ce qu'ils chargèrent sur vingt-neuf chevaux.

Ensuite ils emmenèrent prisonniers, 5 hommes, 12 femmes, et 8 enfants (ceux-ci de 2 à 8 ans), pour lesquels ils demandent 19,500 livres Turques.

No. 49.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

E
(No. 483.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June* 14, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 457 of the 7th instant, I have to report that the negotiations which M. de Novikoff is carrying on in the name of the other five Representatives with the Porte respecting the Montenegrin frontier are making slow progress.

The Turkish Government refuse to accept the whole of Captain Sale's modifications of the *status quo* line near the lake; but, on condition of retaining the villages of Matagosh and Gosic, they seem to be willing to admit the small rectification in favour of Montenegro which M. Novikoff desires to obtain near Sare.

Assim Pasha, having lately spoken to me on this subject, I declined to discuss with his Excellency matters which we had confided to M. Novikoff; I urged his Excellency, however, to accept a proposition which was supported by all the Representatives, and which was founded mainly on the compromise suggested by Captain Sale, the English Commissioner, who certainly was not hostile to Turkish interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 50.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 244.)
My Lord, *Rome, June* 14, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 235 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith translation of a note which I have received from the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, acknowledging the receipt of my communication respecting the grievances of Mussulman landlords in Bulgaria, and informing me that the Italian Agent at Sophia has received instructions identical with those sent by your Lordship to Mr. Lascelles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 50.

M. Mancini to Sir A. Paget.

(Translation.)
M. l'Ambassadeur, *Rome, June* 10, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's note of the 7th instant, inclosing copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Agent in Bulgaria to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs respecting the complaints of Mussulman landlords as to the action of the Bulgarian authorities with regard to their proprietary rights, and copy of a despatch from Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

Whilst thanking your Excellency for your courtesy, I have the honour to inform you that our Agent at Sophia has already received instructions identical in substance with those of his British colleague.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) MANCINI.

No. 51.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 441.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, June* 22, 1881.

I APPROVE the answer which, as reported in his despatch No. 453 of the 7th instant, Mr. Plunkett caused to be returned to the inquiry made by the Turkish Government respecting the visit to Scutari in Albania of a British naval officer in the steam-launch of one of Her Majesty's ships.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 52.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 71.)
My Lord, *Scutari, June* 14, 1881.

DERVISH PASHA has summoned to Prisrend six of the most prominent Mahommedan natives of this place, on the plea that he wishes them to be with him when he is about to come to Scutari.

These gentlemen are afraid that, instead of returning here, they may be sent to swell the number of Albanian exiles, although it is now said that Dervish Pasha is endeavouring to gain the good wishes of the North-east Albanians by relaxing much of the severity which he had at first shown towards them, and that he has enrolled a body of 300 men from the principal Moslem families of Jakova, Ipek, and Prisrend, which he has equipped entirely in the Albanian dress, and which he states is to be a guard for the person of the Sultan at Constantinople.

Dervish Pasha is so prone to gain his ends by hidden and unexpected means that it would be too early to pronounce at this stage whether the guard and the Scutari notables are to be transformed into hostages, or to be employed as channels for regaining influence in Albania through Imperial favours; but I would venture to draw your Lordship's

attention to the fact, that all Dervish Pasha has as yet done under a conciliatory guise has been directed towards the Mahommedan element in these provinces, and that if, as is reported by some, he is preparing a reorganization of the Administration in Albania, he has entirely omitted to consider or consult the native Christians, who, according to the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, are entitled to a voice in the reorganization of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 53.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 382.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 23, 1881, 5·5 P.M.

CAPTAIN SALE makes following suggestions on Memorandum inclosed in Mr. Plunkett's despatch No. 457 of the 7th instant:—

1. To substitute some defined distance, say half a kilomètre, instead of vague expression "*un peu* au sud de Sere."

2. It is essential that principle of decision by majority in Boundary Commission should be adopted.

3. Question of thalweg of Boyana should not be mixed up with that of unsettled frontier to east of Lake Scutari.

No. 54.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 23, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 11. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June* 23, 1881, 1 P.M.

TURKISH Minister at Cettinjé has come to Scutari for a few days, to form a correct idea for speedy settlement of the Frontier question. He tells me that he has already caused the Turkish troops to be withdrawn from St. George, thus settling the entire line to the west of Lake Scutari.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 55.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 309.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 23, 1881.

I DELIVERED my letters of credence to His Majesty the Sultan on the 21st instant.

No. 56.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 455.)
Foreign Office, June 25, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that I concur in the approval which, as reported in his despatch No. 465 of the 11th instant, Mr. Plunkett conveyed to Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth of the advice he gave to some of the Orthodox Prelates assembled at Larissa with regard to their openly taking part in politics.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 57.

E *Consul-General Jones to Earl Granville.—(Received June* 27.)

(No. 29.)

My Lord,

Philippopoli, June 14, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 7 of the 22nd April last, inclosing a communication from Sir Henry Elliot on the subject of a proposal (projected) to induce the Porte to extend to Macedonia (including Salonica and Uscup) the operations of the Organic Statute, in consideration for a large annual tribute.

I have no reason to believe that this proposal has as yet been submitted in a definite form to the Porte, or been more than a mere suggestion; but that there is a strong and general longing on both sides of the Rhodope for its speedy accomplishment there can be no doubt.

In connection therewith, I beg leave to submit to your Lordship the accompanying statement, which, at my request, M. Gueshoff had drawn up for me on this subject.

M. Gueshoff is the President of the Permanent Committee, and has considerable influence in this province. His opinion on its present political situation or future development may be taken to represent those of the most sober and enlightened section of the community.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

Inclosure in No. 57.

Statement of the National Wishes on the subject of extending to Macedonia the Operation of the Organic Statute of Eastern Roumelia.

SINCE the conclusion of the Treaty of Berlin, the condition of Macedonia has not ceased to occupy the attention of the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia.

Alarmed at first by certain provisions of that Treaty which appeared to threaten their own position, they have since been reassured by the installation of a new Government, which has given them order and tranquillity. Their only fear now is, that the misgovernment of Macedonia and the sufferings of its inhabitants should lead to an insurrection there and a sympathetic movement in the neighbouring provinces, which would be used by the Turks as an excuse for occupying the Balkans. Now this the Bulgarians on both sides are determined to oppose to the utmost of their power.

The great danger to the peace of Eastern Europe lies in the intolerable misgovernment and cruel oppression which have made Macedonia for some months past the hotbed of intrigue and revolutionary disorder.

The present state of that unhappy province can no longer be amended by mere superficial reforms. Its condition is similar to that of Eastern Roumelia before the late war. On the one side, a hopelessly corrupt Administration, endeavouring to maintain its authority by violence, falsehood, and wrong; on the other, a people, maddened by suffering, retaliating with outrage, robbery, and murder. If, in the case of the latter province, the sole remedy was found to be self-government, there can be no doubt that for Macedonia likewise nothing short of this will suffice.

A year has passed since Sir Drummond Wolff wrote to Lord Granville that "the only hope of Turkey lies in such a complete decentralization as that which has been secured for Eastern Roumelia.* The curse of Turkey has been the Tanzimat, which substituted for local government—which could easily have been reformed and improved—a sham French centralization; provinces and districts are handed over to the protégés and minions of the Porte; from them there is no appeal but to their friends and patrons in the capital, and the people of the provinces are, as a rule, the victims of fanaticism, cynicism, or corruption, injurious equally to Turk and Christian.

. . . . "I believe that in the provisions of the Eastern Roumelian Statute are to be found the germs both of political and financial prosperity for the European provinces of Turkey, and also for the Empire itself. By assimilating, as far as possible, the remaining provinces of European Turkey to Eastern Roumelia, I believe government would be rendered easier, justice promoted, and equitable administration secured under the Sultan. Should the course of events bring the dynasty to an end in Europe, the inhabitants, secure in liberties already acquired, would with far more difficulty become the dupes or prey of foreign covetousness or ambition."

* "Turkey No. 15 (1880)."

Since this was written, the great progress made by Eastern Roumelia, and the increasing impotence and inefficacy of Turkish rule in the provinces still unhappily subjected to it, should prove that the most likely means of delivering Macedonia from its present anarchy would be to assimilate it completely to Eastern Roumelia. The union of these two provinces would be an act of justice to its inhabitants, and an important step towards the peaceful solution of the Eastern question. Everything in Macedonia is in favour of such an union. Community of race, religion, language, and sentiment, which have made the provinces inseparable in the past, will continue to do so for the future.

According to statistics, based on Turkish poll-tax registers, the population of Macedonia* amounts to 1,863,382, of whom 1,257,385 are Christian Bulgarians, 463,837 Mussulmans, chiefly of Bulgarian race and language, and the remainder Greeks, Wallachs, Jews, &c.

The work of assimilating the two provinces is rendered less difficult from the intimacy of the relations which have always subsisted between them. Many Macedonians are employed at present in the public service of Eastern Roumelia, and serve in the provincial militia as officers and non-commissioned officers. This force would be, therefore, well qualified to act as a "corps d'occupation" during the reorganization of the Province of Macedonia until the new authorities were installed and the national militia organized.

Experience has shown that without such an armed occupation no decentralizing movement can be carried out in Turkey. If the Lebanon and Eastern Roumelia are now enjoying prosperity from their new system of government, it is because a foreign occupation enabled Europe to introduce it. The same measures will be necessary to avert from Macedonia the disorders and dangers attending a change of government, and the Eastern Roumelian militia—an Ottoman force—is best qualified to undertake this duty, and to aid in extending to the neighbouring province the provisions of the Organic Statute, which have worked so well here.

Under the government of Aleko Pasha—order at the same time being maintained by the constitutional force (which has established public security in this province), Macedonia could not fail to participate, at no remote period, in the security and prosperity of her sister province on this side of the Rhodope.

Philippopoli, June 10, 1881.

No. 58.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 497.)

Therapia, June 20, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 339 of the 2nd May last, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopoli on the subject of the strange disclosures made by two foreigners to Mr. Calvert with regard to a supposed impending insurrection in Macedonia.

Mr. Goschen had requested Captain Jones to furnish his Excellency with any information that would tend to throw light on the statements of Messrs. Götsche and Gundlach.

The Proclamation, a translation of which accompanies Captain Jones' despatch, appears to be the one alluded to by Mr. Calvert, and which was said to have been published in the beginning of April last.

I have sent a copy of Captain Jones' despatch to Mr. Blunt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 58.

Consul-General Jones to Mr. Plunkett.

(Confidential.)

Philippopoli, June 13, 1881.

Sir,

I REGRET much the difficulty in acquiring sufficient information to enable me to test accurately the value of M. Gundlach's disclosures, as communicated in Mr. Goschen's despatch of the 4th ultimo, Confidential.

* Including Vilayets of Uskup and Salonica.

Considering Bara Gundlach's antecedents, it seems improbable that any revolutionary society with serious aims would confide to him secret plans of any importance which it wished to keep concealed. He has apparently learnt some of these, guessed at others, and fabricated the rest.

The original of the Macedonian Proclamation he was unable to produce, but furnished me with a translation of the same made by himself. It might have been possible, by inspecting the original, to discover something of its origin.

The mysterious personage spoken of may be, or have been, M. Stranoky, the Finance Director, or even the Bulgarian Metropolitan, Mgr. Pavezeti, who was at one time in close intimacy with the revolutionary Committees. That there is a band of marauders infesting the districts he mentions is true, but their patriotism has as yet taken no other form than that of living at free quarters on the villages around. Indeed, from what I learn, all these "Patriotic Societies" appear to be organized with the object of levying black-mail on friends and foes alike, the proceeds of which are shared by the Chiefs among themselves.

The arms and ammunition for the purchase of which it is demanded are seldom supplied through their means, but are generally furnished by the authorities of the neighbouring and sympathizing States. The number of volunteers which have left this province for Macedonia is manifestly exaggerated. There does not exist here, at least in any numbers, that idle floating population, from whose ranks alone they could be recruited without exciting general attention.

The statement respecting the Governor-General's cognizance of, and participation in, the schemes mentioned, I am inclined to believe has been simply added to heighten the interest or value of the disclosures. Aleko Pasha is not easily deceived, and that he contributed 500*l.* for an object so precarious and illusive as that presented to him has little appearance of probability. I shall not fail to report any further information I may acquire on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 58.

Proclamation of the Provisional Government.

LA Macédoine, notre grande et illustre patrie, pleine de vastes et riches terrains, d'habitants si nobles et si braves, souffre depuis tant de centaines d'années des maux que les étrangers lui ont faits. Sous le joug des chaînes massives et cruelles, nous, habitants, étouffons et l'esprit de nos ancêtres expire. Nous sommes ruinés par le pillage de nos maîtres, et nos femmes et nos enfants doivent tressaillir des pas de ceux qui nous sont octroyés. Quoi? Notre si chère patrie qui autrefois a civilisé l'humanité et l'Asie, qui, par ses phalanges a fait gémir le monde d'effroi. Quoi? ce pays qui a produit Aristote, le grand Alexandre, tant d'autres, devrait-il toujours rester dans cet abîme de misère, dans lequel la cruauté et la férocité des vrais barbares nous ont précipité? Le danger est grand, car de tout côté on cherche à nous retenir dans cette misère déplorable. De tous côtés des ennemis, prétendant que les Macédoniens n'ont jamais été, ne seront jamais ce grand et noble peuple, qu'ils ont toujours été et qu'ils resteront toujours dans l'éternité. Vous, chers enfants, tant aimés, qui gémissez maintenant sous le despotisme du grand Turque, cassez ces chaînes ensanglantées, brisez le despotisme et la cruauté de tous ceux qui vous méprisent à l'instant, par le son de vos armes et le haut battement de vos cœurs après la victoire vous dira, que l'œuvre faite a été bonne, que l'humanité le reconnaît comme telle, que les peuples libres et nobles vous adorent. Prenez les armes, chèrs enfants, et les ennemis étoufferont sous les flots de leur propre sang, l'esclavage se retirera sous le brillement de vos épées. Une seule patrie, un seul peuple. Ce n'est rien, que des différences entre nous. Nous avons un ennemi à chasser de notre patrie et un autre devant nos portes, prêt à nous détruire, aveugle par son avidité, ne voyant pas que l'amour pour notre chère patrie nous donnera les forces de les maîtriser tous les deux. Pas un seul ne franchira le seuil du berceau des soldats de tous temps, pas un seul ne sortira. Voyons ce que c'est que de dompter un peuple tellement illustre que nous!

Traduit d'un original Grecque du Bulgare en Français à Deirmendéré, Avril.

No. 59.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 10.)
My Lord,

Prevesa, June 19, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of my despatch of to-day, and of its inclosure, to Mr. Plunkett, relating to the exile of five Christian merchants of Janina to Tripoli.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 59.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Plunkett.

Prevesa, June 19, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a telegram which the Consuls at Janina dispatched to their respective Embassies at Constantinople on the 12th instant in connection with the arrest and subsequent exile of five Christian merchants to Tripoli, and I very much regret that, owing to my having received at a very late hour yesterday evening Mr. Kypriotis' despatch accompanying the above telegram, I am prevented from forwarding to you a translation of it, but I shall not fail to do so by first opportunity.

I may, however, add that the sentence passed on the above five individuals seems to me an unnecessarily hard one, for they merely committed the offence of abusing, just as they were entering Janina, seven Greek soldiers who had deserted from the garrison at Corfu.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 59.

Telegram sent by Consuls at Janina to Ambassadors at Constantinople.

Le 11 *Juin*, 1881.

CINQ négociants Chrétiens ont été condamnés pour simple délit correctionnel quinze années travaux forcés à escompter à Tripoli et promenés dans la ville comme des malfaiteurs escortés par la troupe avec les placards portant leur condamnation ; ils sont parti pour leur exile ; impression et agitation parmi population Chrétienne est extrême car chacun considère ce jugement comme le commencement de persécutions contre Chrétiens. Officiers et troupes étant très excités ; Corps Consulaire réuni après demandes inutiles auprès autorités a décidé télégraphier Ambassadeurs à Constantinople pour informer état esprits et demander leur intervention en faveur des Chrétiens.

Détails par prochain courrier.

No. 60.

E *Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 27.)*

(No. 306.)
My Lord,

Vienna, June 22, 1881.

THE Acting Austro-Hungarian Consul-General at Sophia writes that, according to instructions received from Baron Haymerle, he had made unofficial representations to Prince Alexander on the subject of the complaints of the Mahommedan proprietors in Bulgaria.

His Highness appears to have admitted that these people had just cause of complaint, which he had regretted, without having the means of preventing; their grievances had, however, latterly been mitigated, and His Highness hoped soon to be in a position to protect all classes of his subjects from illegal oppression.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 61.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 27.)

E
(No. 308. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Vienna, June 24, 1881.

M. STANKO RADOWITZ, the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs, has passed a few days at Vienna, during which, as I am confidentially informed, he has very strongly insisted upon the importance of including within the Montenegrin frontier certain positions now occupied by the Albanians.

Baron Haymerle greatly regrets that the tracing of the frontier should not have been left entirely to the discretion of the Commissioners to decide by a majority of votes, as it is, he says, they alone who can judge of the importance of the places claimed by the two parties, upon which it is impossible for either the Cabinets or the Ambassadors at Constantinople to form any correct opinion.

He had not liked to refuse to adopt the mode of proceeding proposed by M. Novikow, but he is daily becoming more apprehensive that it may lead to difficulties about a strip of land insignificant both in extent and importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 62.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 631.)
My Lord,

Paris, June 27, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship, extracted from the "Journal Officiel" of this day, a Circular respecting the questions of Montenegro, of the Greek frontier, and of Tunis, which was addressed by M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire to the Diplomatic Representatives of the French Government abroad on the 20th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Extract from the "Journal Officiel" of June 27, 1881.

Paris, le 26 *Juin*, 1881.

M. LE Ministre des Affaires Étrangères vient d'adresser la Circulaire suivante aux Agents Diplomatiques du Gouvernement de la République Française :—

"*Paris, le* 20 *Juin*, 1881.

"Monsieur,—À l'avènement du Cabinet actuel (23 Septembre, 1880), trois questions extérieures étaient pendantes : c'étaient celles du Monténégro, des frontières Grecques et Tunis. Les deux premières étaient Européennes ; la dernière ne regardait guère que la France. Aujourd'hui, qu'elles sont toutes les trois résolues heureusement, il serait peu nécessaire de rappeler les faits qui en ont amené le dénouement et qui sont trop récents pour qu'on les ait oubliés ; mais il peut être utile de préciser quelle a été dans ces questions diverses la politique de la France, et par quel principe elle s'est dirigée."

AFFAIRE DU MONTÉNÉGRO (Mai-Décembre 1880).—L'échange des territoires attribués au Monténégro par le Congrès de Berlin tardait déjà depuis deux années, par la résistance imprévue de la Ligue Albanaise, quand le Cabinet Anglais constitué après celui de Lord Beaconsfield (Avril 1880), proposa à l'Europe de hâter la solution par une mesure qui, sans être la guerre, fût cependant plus efficace que les négociations ordinaires. Cette mesure, à laquelle les Six Puissances s'associèrent, était une démonstration navale sur les côtes de l'Adriatique, là où est situé le district de Dulcigno, qui devait faire retour aux Monténégrins. Quel était le vrai sens de cette démonstration, et jusqu'à quel point la France s'engageait-elle en consentant à s'y mêler ? C'était là un problème obscur et périlleux, parce qu'une flotte de vingt cuirassés, réunis à Gravosa et dans les bouches du Cattaro, semblait être une menace de guerre bien plutôt qu'une garantie de paix.

Cependant il n'en était rien ; et au fond, dans l'intention de tout le monde, cette grande réunion de bâtiments armés n'avait pour objet que d'exercer une pression morale,

comme l'issue devait le faire voir clairement; mais, au début, il était possible de s'y méprendre, ainsi que s'y méprit alors une grande partie de l'opinion publique. Quant au Cabinet Français, il sut discerner tout d'abord le caractère essentiel que malgré les apparances, la démonstration navale pouvait toujours conserver; et les dépêches de mon prédécesseur, M. de Freycinet, font foi (28 Juillet, 1er Août, 1880), qu'il était parfaitement entendu qu'en aucun cas on n'aurait recours à la force, et qu'il ne serait pas tiré un coup de canon.

Sans doute, de telles déclarations pouvaient sembler en contradiction avec un armement aussi formidable; mais deux faits d'une autorité indéniable démontrèrent l'absolue sincérité de ces déclarations et vinrent justifier la confiance du Cabinet Français. En premier lieu, la Porte Ottomane était conviée par les Puissances à figurer dans la démonstration navale; par conséquent, cette démonstration n'était pas dirigée contre elle, et n'avait rien d'agressif, si ce n'est peut-être contre les Albanais insurgés. En second lieu, lorsque, au commencement d'Octobre, on proposa d'envoyer à Smyrne la flotte combinée, ce projet fut repoussé, parce que l'on vit un fait de guerre patent dans cette main-mise sur un port d'une Puissance amie. Deux ans auparavant cette même Puissance avait eu entrée au Congrès de Berlin, comme elle l'avait eu au Congrès de Paris, en 1856; et l'on ne pouvait songer à la traiter en ennemie, par ce seul motif qu'elle était impuissante à réduire l'insurrection de sujets insoumis aussi promptement qu'elle le désirait elle-même, avec le reste de l'Europe. Mais, sous cette pression devenue de plus en plus manifeste, la Porte se résolut à des mesures décisives contre les Albanais rebelles: et, après quelques opérations difficiles, elle put, vers la fin de Novembre, faire rendre Dulcigno aux Monténégrins. Peu de jours plus tard, la flotte combinée se dispersait; et l'affaire du Monténégro était terminée pacifiquement, selon le désir des Puissances, qui s'étaient faites les exécutrices des décisions du Congrès de Berlin.

La réserve qu'avait montrée la France et où elle s'était tenue constamment, avait été fort remarquée; elle avait même provoqué des critiques et des soupçons. Mais l'attitude du Cabinet Français, imitée par plusieurs autres, était cependant fort sage; et nous devions d'autant plus soigneusement nous mettre en garde contre des éventualités de guerre toujours possibles, que, d'après notre Constitution Républicaine, le droit de paix et de guerre n'appartient pas chez nous au pouvoir exécutif, comme chez d'autres nations; notre Gouvernement eût manqué à tous ses devoirs s'il avait risqué d'engager des hostilités qu'il n'avait pas le droit d'ouvrir, sans l'assentiment des Chambres. En agissant avec tant de prudence, il ne faisait que se ranger à une obligation constitutionnelle; mais, en outre, son exemple contribua à restreindre la démonstration navale dans les limites de modération d'où l'on pouvait craindre, à tout instant, qu'elle ne sortît. En se renfermant dans les bornes qu'elle s'était prescrites, la France servit donc tout à la fois ses intérêts particuliers et ceux de l'Europe, qui voulait la paix et qui n'entendait porter aucune atteinte à l'existence de l'Empire Turc, qu'elle venait de sauver des conséquences extrêmes du Traité de San Stéfano.

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No. 63.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 75.)
My Lord,

Scutari, June 16, 1881.

I LEARN from a trustworthy native Christian merchant, who has just returned from a business tour to Ipek, Jacova, and Prisrend, that those towns, and the districts adjoining them, are now completely under the control of the Ottoman authorities, and that he was consequently able to obtain the settlement of many commercial transactions which had been left open for the last five years.

My informant was both at Jacova and Ipek during the short visits paid to those places by Dervish Pasha, and heard many of the harangues made by the High Commissioner to numerous deputations which came to offer their submission to him. Dervish Pasha was, as usual, very profuse in kind words and advice, accompanied by many signs of personal emotion; but invariably concluded his speeches by stating that arrears of taxes and the obligation to military service would be rigorously exacted, and left his hearers more than ever convinced that there could be no escape from what he had determined upon.

In the district of Jacova a force of ten battalions has completely checked the momentary semblance of resistance on the part of the mountain tribes of that district; and at Ipek the four battalions now there are more than sufficient to keep down the ill-

humour which must exist through the punishment which was inflicted on the Ipek levies in the engagement at Stinlja.

The local view of Dervish Pasha's action—especially as it appears not to be aimed at punishing those who were implicated in the murder of Mehemet Ali Pasha, or other acts of lawlessness—is, that as soon as the Porte recalls him from North East Albania, the province will revert to its late state of disorder.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 64.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 80.)
My Lord,

Salonica, June 20, 1881.

WITH reference to my Report No. 77 of the 14th instant, on the subject of the proceedings of Dervish Pasha in North East Albania, I have the honour to further inform your Lordship that 375 Albanian recruits, raised by conscription in the Sandjak of Pristina, arrived here between the 15th and 18th instant, and will be placed in the battalions of the line now serving in Macedonia.

I also hear that two battalions of Rediffs have recently been enrolled in the Albanian districts of the Vilayet of Cossova.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 65.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 35.)
My Lord,

Canea, Crete, June 20, 1881.

THE forty days allotted to the General Assembly of the Cretans for its annual labours came to an end on the 18th instant. This last week has been taken up with the consideration of several subjects of importance, foremost among which is that of the Budget. The revenue raised during the financial year ending on the 12th March last amounted to 14,329,722 piastres (113,728*l.*), while that of the current year is estimated at only 6,000,000 piastres (47,619*l.*). This great inequality must always be expected in a country which, like Crete, depends for the principal part of its revenue on the produce of the olive-tree, which never bears a heavy crop on two successive years. The expenses of the past financial year amounted, as previously stated, to 78,346*l.*, and a loan of 18,000*l.* was besides repaid, thus leaving a surplus of 17,346*l.* (2,185,655 piastres). While the half of this sum was due to the Porte, the other half was destined for public works, if the terms of the Convention of 1878 were adhered to; but in his opening speech the Vali told the Deputies that the Administrative Council had decided to carry the sum payable to the Porte to the credit of the current year, in order to lessen the anticipated deficit, and by so doing he hoped to avoid drawing on the customs dues, which the Porte reserves for itself. This arrangement, however, did not meet the views of the Assembly, which is loath to forego the privilege belonging to it, in years when a deficit declares itself, of dipping its hands into the customs; and it proved to its own satisfaction that the alleged surplus of 2,185,655 piastres was liable to a reduction of 1,800,000 piastres, a sum which represented the difference between paying the officials in piastres and in Turkish liras. The Assembly had fixed their salaries last year in piastres, reckoning 120 to the Turkish lira, and, though an order had come from the Porte for all employés to be paid at the rate of 100 piastres to the lira, they continued to be paid at the old rate, a saving of 20 per cent. being thus effected, or about 1,750,000 piastres. This sum the Deputies decline to reckon as surplus revenue, regarding it as a saving belonging to the Administration, and voted that it should be allotted to the keeping up of the primary schools. The surplus has by this simple expedient been reduced to the modest proportions of 500,000 piastres, less than 4,000*l.*, the moiety accruing to the Porte having been voted to lessen the deficit of the current year. The Assembly having thus disposed of the greater part of the surplus for the benefit of education, lays claim to the half of the customs, to make good the large deficit. This half is estimated at about the same sum as the saving effected in the payment of the official salaries, viz., 1,750,000 piastres; but it is not to be expected that the Porte will acquiesce in the Assembly's financial management of its surplus.

Neither will it be disposed tamely to give up its right to the proceeds of the stamp duty, representing an annual sum of about 250,000 piastres (1,900*l.*), which the Assembly now for the first time discovers as belonging to the island revenue, inasmuch as it is not enumerated among the taxes reserved by the Porte. The Mussulman Members, while acquiescing in the view of their Christian colleagues as regards the disposition of the surplus, upheld the right of the Porte to the stamp duty.

The Assembly, meanwhile, has been effecting reductions in the current expenditure, both by cutting down the salaries, already small enough, of certain employés, and by reducing the numbers of the police force from 1,680 to 1,365 men. While slightly raising their pay, in consideration of their being now obliged to live at a distance from their homes, the saving effected by the reduction amounts to about 600,000 piastres, the total economy bringing down the expenditure from 9,885,574 piastres, the figure at which it stood last year, to about 9,000,000 piastres (78,459*l.* to 70,000*l.*). In the Judicial Department—still with the view of effecting economies—the Presidents of the three Commercial Courts in Canea, Candia, and Rethymo will be invited to resign, and those Courts will henceforth be presided over by the Presidents of the Courts of First Instance, the unpaid Assessors chosen by the local merchants, amongst whom the foreign element is represented, remaining as before. On the other hand, an additional outlay will be entailed by the proposed creation of seven more Tribunals, presided over by Juges de Paix, which will henceforth number thirty instead of twenty-three.

The remaining questions which were raised in the Assembly had been reserved till the last, because they were all such as were sure to bring the two religious parties of which it is composed into collision. The first regarded the right of the inhabitants to change their religion without incurring disabilities. There exists a law in Crete, dating from the year 1858 or thereabouts, which pronounces the sentence of banishment against any Cretan who shall change his religion. It has been acquiesced in these many years by both religious communities, because, while there was little desire manifested by the Mussulmans to win converts from Christianity, few Mussulmans became Christians, Christian converts from Islam being discouraged by the law, founded on the Koran, which disinherits any follower of the Prophet who embraces Christianity. The Christian Members of the Assembly now unanimously demand not only that nobody shall be banished for changing his religion, but that a Mussulman, on becoming a Christian, shall not forfeit his right of inheritance. The Mahommedan element in Crete is scandalized at the idea of so fundamental a law of their religion being attacked; but a spirit of justice would dictate its suppression, and the battle of perfect religious equality, theoretically conceded by the Porte, might well be fought out in Crete, where the Christians are able to hold their own.

At the sitting of the 17th instant, being the last but one, the forty-nine Christian Members of the Assembly formulated five demands, which they subsequently embodied in a Memorandum addressed to the several Consuls. As they are all innovations in the Organic Law, they required to be supported by the votes of two-thirds of the Assembly before they could be presented for the sanction of the Porte; and it was easy to foresee that they would obtain no countenance from the Mussulman Deputies, who number thirty-one, and therefore command more than the requisite minority of one-third of the Assembly of eighty Members to negative the measures.

The following are the five demands in question:—

1. That the customs duties be shared equally between the Porte and the Local Government, and not, as is provided in the Convention of 1878, that only such portion, up to a half, be granted during years when it is found impossible for the receipts to meet the expenses. The alternative is suggested that the whole of the customs be included in the island Budget, and that a fixed annual tribute be paid to the Porte.

2. That assent be given to the principle that the Porte cannot modify any law passed by the Assembly, but shall either confirm or reject it.

3. That if the Porte returns no reply to a Bill that has been voted by the Assembly within a delay of two months, its assent thereto shall be taken as granted. This provision is borrowed from the Règlement for Eastern Roumelia.

4. That the annual sittings of the Assembly be prolonged from forty to sixty or ninety days. They complain that the time now allowed is too short, and conduces to hasty legislation.

5. They demand the alteration of the law which provides that every Bill modifying the existing Organic Law of Crete shall require the votes of two-thirds of the Assembly before it can be presented for the Imperial sanction. They ask that any measure shall be held as approved by the Assembly when it has obtained a majority of votes, as is the case in other legislative bodies.

When the five points above enumerated were submitted to the Assembly on the

17th instant, supported by the entire body of the Christian Deputies, the Mussulman minority, as was anticipated, unanimously rejected them. Hereupon the Christians chose from among themselves a deputation of six to wait upon the several Consuls, and they yesterday called on me and presented a Memorandum embodying the five points which I have just had the honour of explaining to your Lordship. As the document is somewhat lengthy, I have not the time to send a translation by to-day's post. It is accompanied by a short letter, which might well have been omitted, of which I annex a translation. They briefly state that, until their national aspirations after union with Greece are satisfied, they hope that the five points contained in the Memorandum, which are of a nature to remedy the most pressing wants of their present political status, will receive the support of Her Majesty's Government. I hope to return to this subject in my next communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 65.

Letter addressed by the Christian Members of the General Assembly of the Cretans to Consul Sandwith.

(Traduction.)
M. le Consul,

NOUS n'oublions pas que le peuple Crétois, pour être conséquent à ses traditions historiques, aspire à son union à la Grèce, et qu'il n'y aura que l'Union Nationale qui pourra mettre fin à ses malheurs et assurer sa prospérité, vœux qu'il a renouvelé il n'y a pas longtemps.

En attendant cette occasion politique, nous avons l'honneur de vous soumettre, ci-joint, le Mémorandum, tendant à remédier aux besoins les plus pressants, qui a été présenté à la séance du $\frac{5}{17}$ Juin, adopté par la majorité des voix, et vous prier, M. le Consul, de l'adresser à votre Gouvernment, dont nous sollicitons l'appui.

Agréez, &c.
(Signed by 49 Christian Members of the Assembly.)

No. 66.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 29, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 312.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 29, 1881, 5·5 P.M.

THE State trial closed to-day. Sentence of death has been pronounced against not only the four men who actually took part in the murder, but also on Mahmoud Damat, Nouri Pasha, the Sultan's brother, and Midhat Pasha.

Eight days are allowed for appeal.

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